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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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## PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 8, 2009

**Phase 1:** Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

**Phase 2:** An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

**Phase 3:** An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

**Phase 4:** Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

**Phase 5:** A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

**Phase 6:** The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail [cnmipeoc@gmail.com](mailto:cnmipeoc@gmail.com), or visit [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/).

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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### MJ Memorial

The essence of Michael Jackson's memorial service came down to 20 poignant, powerful seconds.

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# NMI govt owes Aetna \$122K

Aetna threatens to cancel health insurance coverage if it's not paid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Aetna Global Benefits, which administers the CNMI government's health insurance program, has threatened to cancel the health insurance coverage of members if a two-year-old debt to the company is not paid soon.

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## Palau asks for more US aid after Gitmo deal

JONATHAN KAMINSKY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**KOROR, Palau (AP)**—Palau is asking longtime benefactor the United States for a 35-year extension on direct aid funding—and hinting Washington should say yes because of its offer to take in 13 Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Both Palauan and U.S. officials have denied any direct link between the country's willingness to take in the Chinese Muslim Uighurs and American aid.

But Palau negotiators say they are proposing the extension in a formal 15-year re-



Toribiong

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## Audit: Employer contributions dropped by \$8.3M in FY'08

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

One of the primary sources of funds to finance the benefits of government retirees showed a significant decline last

fiscal year, according to an audit report released by the NMI Retirement Fund on Tuesday.

Saipan Tribune learned that employer contributions dropped by about \$8.3 million, or 14 percent, in Fiscal Year

2008, compared to the FY 2007 record.

The Fund posted a total of \$49.8 million employer contributions in FY 2008 compared to \$58.1 million in fiscal year 2007.

See AUDIT on Page 4

## Boy, 8, leads Saipan Agri Fair awardees

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Edward C. Reyes Jr. is just another boy next door who also likes computer games. But this 8-year-old student of Kagman Elementary School also likes to spend extra time in his family's backyard garden, planting vegetables or picking fruits.

"I like mangoes and I'm planning to plant some," said Reyes, shortly after receiving his awards as the grand prize winner of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Agricultural Fair held June 6 at the Civic Center in Susupe.

The awarding of prizes for the winners was held simultaneously with the 28<sup>th</sup> Saipan Agricultural Fair

See BOY on Page 4



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Eight-year-old Edward C. Reyes Jr. of Kagman Elementary School smiles as he shows off his certificate and prizes for being the grand prize winner in the 17th Youth Annual Agricultural Fair during the awards banquet Tuesday night at the Saipan Grand Hotel poolside. Other picture shows Gov. Benigno R. Fitial presenting the awards to the other winners.



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## Local

# Article 12 lecture stirs up different perspectives

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Noel Quitugua, a retired staff of the NMI Museum, said many indigenous people lost their lands after World War II—an issue that has never been resolved by Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

The lands, he said, were either stolen or the indigenous people were cheated out of them.

“That’s the biggest problem we have. This is the issue that has not been resolved in Article 12,” he said.

Quitugua joined the huge audience that attended a public presentation by law professor Rose Cuison Villazor titled “Article 12, Claims to Culture and Political Rights: The Race vs. Political Identity Dilemma” at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater Tuesday night.

Villazor, whose presentation forms part of her ongoing research on Article 12, lectured on the legal, historical and cultural relationships between Article 12 and other blood quantum property laws in American Samoa, Hawaii and other jurisdictions, focusing on the U.S. Supreme Court’s approach to “analyzing blood quantum laws under either a race or political constitutional paradigm.”

She believes that this fails to address competing yet equally important issues of equality, liberty and political rights that relate to land ownership in formerly colonized territories.

Article 12 restricts the ownership of lands in the Common-

wealth to persons of Northern Marianas descent. This includes acquisition by sale, lease, gift, inheritance or other means. The section will expire in 2011 and the CNMI will vote by then whether to junk or extend it.

Taotao Tano’s Greg Cruz expressed appreciation for the lecture because it gave the public new perspectives on the issue.

“She did not take any position on Article 12, whether she approves of it or if she is against it,” Cruz said.

He said the people of the CNMI or the so-called NMDs have the right to fight for their lands. “Our island is too small and we should have the duty to preserve our cultural and tradi-

tional properties,” he said.

Cruz said the lecture opens up dialogue and makes people aware on what is going on.



Villazor

“It enlightens us on what to expect in the Covenant. I was struck about the case law issue in Hawaii,” he said, adding that somebody in the CNMI will also take this issue to court on the grounds of race.

He expects Article 12 to be a critical issue to everyone and not only for NMDs.

Northern Marianas College instructor Sam McPhetres said the presentation was a good exchange of ideas about the issue.

“She pointed out the importance of doing our homework before 2011,” McPhetres said.

Rep. Tina Sablan said it was an informative presentation—one of the liveliest discussions in the community for quite a while.

“There were many different perspectives. What struck me most was the diversity of opinions. We could decide now or maybe wait until 2011. Should we retain it or not? I think that this should be the question to be posed,” she said.

For Sablan, abolishing Article 12 should be seriously considered and not just for economic reasons.

“I think that most people will have to make important decisions. For instance, if they choose to sell the land there should be some limitations on whom to sell it to,” she said.

Villazor said that Tuesday’s lively discussion will surely generate more and longer en-

gaging discussions.

“My goal is to make sure they also share their own perspectives because the framework of my research is from the mainland perspective,” she said.

Villazor was raised on Saipan, graduated at Mt. Carmel School in 1991, received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and her

LL.M. from the Columbia University School of Law. She is currently teaching law at Hofstra University.

The lecture was a part of the NMI Council for the Humanities’ continuing efforts to provide the community with information on Article 12 of the CNMI’s Constitution from a variety of viewpoints.

## Court gives Santos more time to respond

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI granted on Tuesday former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos’ request to be given more time to file an objection and response to the pre-sentence investigation.

Federal court judge Alex Munson gave Santos and his wife, Joaquina Santos, until July 17 to submit their objection and response.

The couple had been given until today to submit their objection and response.

James Santos, through lawyer Victorino DLG Torres, and Joaquina Santos, through lawyer Ramon Quichocho, filed the joint motion for an extension on July 6.

Both did not offer any reason for the request for extension; however, they said they need additional time to prepare.

Both will be sentenced with former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez on July 28, 2009.

The jury on April 24 found

Villagomez and the Santoses guilty of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Last week, the court denied anew their motion for a judgment of acquittal and a new trial in the Rydlyme case.

The defendants were accused of bilking the government of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the unnecessary purchase of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

In a separate ruling, the federal court also denied a motion to acquit the three despite their earlier convictions.

The three alleged that the jurors were biased but Munson said they failed to prove this.

Another co-defendant, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government and was sentenced to three years probation and a fine of \$6,000 on June 22.



### SISTER SCHOOL

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, fourth from left, exchanges a handshake with Kyungmin College president Dr. Moon-Jong Hong, third from left, after a recent meeting. During their visit to Saipan, Dr. Hong and other Kyungmin College officials met last week with the president to discuss a possible sister school agreement with NMC. Kyungmin College is located in Gyeonggi-do, South Korea.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### Proposed amendment to the official Saipan Zoning Map

The public is invited to join and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the proposed amendments (rezones) to the official Saipan Zoning Map #06 - Tanapag Village.

**Date:** July 23, 2009, Thursday

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Place:** Tanapag Social Hall (across from the Church)

Comments on the proposed rezone may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 24, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

- 1.) Star Marianas Inc. (Star Waters)
- 2.) Health Trends

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following applications:

1. Conditional Use Application #2009-2026 -Star Water Container Storage Lot# 1915-5
2. Zoning Permit Application #2009-2117--Health Trends (Paganville) Lot# 018 D 53/54

**Date:** July 24, 2009, Friday

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Place:** Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above applications may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, July 27, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

## Notice of Zoning Board Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes. None
5. Communications. None

### B. Public Comments

### C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide

1. Final Plat, Major Subdivision #2009-1145 Christopher Fryling
2. Final Plat, Major Subdivision #2009-1710 Eleanor Tudela Tenorio

### D. Old Business

1. Club Chicago - Request for 12 month extension of operations at current location until 9/30/10, per SZL Section 1207
2. Tease Club - Request for extension to occupy former Krystal Night Club in Chalan Kanoa until 12/31/09

### E. New Business. None

### F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

### G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting

### H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

## Bill seeks to rename NMC after ex-Gov. Camacho

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua has introduced a bill that seeks to rename the Northern Marianas College after the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho, who helped established the institution.

Quitugua wants to rename NMC to "Gov. Carlos S. Camacho, Northern Marianas College" to honor the former chief executive.

Quitugua was not present during yesterday's House session. He, however, instructed Rep. David Apatang to introduce his bill.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the session, there were no further discussions on the proposed measure.

Camacho, a former resident commissioner, issued the proc-

lamation in 1976 that provided for the establishment of NMC.

However, among the impediments to the establishment of the college at the time was the lack of a suitable facility.

To address the issue, then Gov. Camacho established a task force. In May 1980, the task force completed its review and study of the feasi-

bility of a community college and set forth its findings and recommendations.

The study determined that a college was indeed feasible.

The bill states that in March 1981, then Gov. Camacho issued an executive order that effectively established the Northern Marianas Community College, now known as the

Northern Marianas College.

"Thanks in part to the vision and leadership of the Commonwealth's first elected governor who issued the enabling order, NMC continues to provide the students of the Commonwealth an opportunity

to further their academic and technical education beyond high school. Accordingly, the purpose of the Act is to rename the college in honor of the man that helped establish the institution," the legislation states. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Fund asks court to junk Kiyu's lawsuit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees on Monday asked the federal court to dismiss the complaint and demand for jury trial of former senator Thomas Villagomez.

It also asked the court to dismiss the board as defendants in the lawsuit.

Represented by their lawyer Viola Alepuyo, the board argued that it is not an official "capacity defendants" for purposes of being persons.

Villagomez sued the Retirement Fund, its administrator Mark Aguon, the board of trustees, and 10 other individuals for failure to process and release his retirement benefits.

Villagomez, through his attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, wants the court to stop the "double standard" within the Retirement Fund and asked the

court for judgment against the defendants for damages, for a mandatory injunction ordering the Fund to immediately process and release his retirement benefits, for costs of suit and attorney's fees, and other relief.

Villagomez complained that the Retirement Fund did not disclose the CNMI government's nonpayment of its employer contributions, so the Fund members remained ignorant of the fact.

He said he suffered economic loss when he failed to receive his retirement benefits.

Alepuyo explained that in order for Villagomez to establish a valid claim, "he must show that a person acting under the color of state law committed the conduct at issue, and that conduct deprived him of some right, privilege or immunity."

The board said the plaintiff "fails to properly allege a conduct that deprived him of any

right protected by the United States laws."

The board adopted and incorporated Mark Aguon's arguments and authorities, arguing that the board cannot be an "official capacity" defendant, and Aguon cannot conspire with himself.

The Fund motion states that the board must be dismissed in their personal capacity because of qualified immunity and because there is no clearly established right to an unfunded liability.

It said that Villagomez's 2 percent bonus is not a clearly established right, and the Legislature's 3 percent bonus has been repealed.

## Labor orders alien worker who abandoned work to leave NMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ordered an alien worker who abandoned his work to immediately leave the CNMI following his failure to seek Labor's assistance on many occasions.

Labor hearing officer Barry Hirshbein ordered Crispin M. Macanas to exit the islands within 10 days as soon as he gets a repatriation ticket from his employer, JM's Nursery.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Macanas abandoned his work station last Jan. 2 after confronting his employer over unpaid wages from Nov. 16 through Jan. 2, 2009.

The employer acknowledged those unpaid wages of Macanas and admitted that he shouted at the employee. However, he said he didn't tell Macanas not to return and to stop working with the company.

Macanas, Labor found out, packed his things and abandoned his work station and didn't bother to report his whereabouts since then.

The company issued Macanas a notice of termination of his employment on Jan. 3 and his paychecks were ready by Jan. 9 but Macanas did not return to claim them.

Hirshbein said even the Labor investigator could not locate

Macanas, even though public notices to appear for investigation was published twice by the department.

The labor official added that the employee did not respond and the matter was set for a hearing until an administrative order was entered on May 15 denying transfer.

It was only on May 21 when Macanas appeared at Labor when his name was listed on the "overstay list" published in a newspaper.

The employee asked for reconsideration, resulting in a hearing where he was issued his paycheck by his former employer.

"The employee gave conflicting testimony about his efforts to look for work during the period from January to May 2009," the order stated, adding that Macanas's renewal with his employer expired on June 6.

Hirshbein said that Macanas failed to exercise due diligence on this matter and was content to remain unemployed for almost five months without seeking help from the Labor Department.

"Employee abused his work/entry permit by continuing to rely upon its validity after ceasing his employment. The employee only came to Labor after learning that he was determined to be an overstay," the labor order stated.

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# Initiative to let govt issue pension obligation bonds pushed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider pushed yesterday the adoption of an initiative that would allow the government to issue pension obligation bonds that will be used to pay the \$231.6 million in damages owed the Retirement Fund.

In yesterday's session, House Speaker Arnold Palacios said Senate Legisla-

tive Initiative 16-10 will remain on the calendar, with instructions for House Ways and Means chair Ray Yumul to come up with language for a different version by Friday.

The initiative will add a new section to Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds.

The new language will reconcile the two purposes stated in Hofschneider's initiative: cutting government expenses

and allowing the government to borrow. Initiatives are supposed to ask only one question.

The Senate passed a similar initiative in October 2008. The Fitial administration recently reiterated its call for such an initiative.

Hofshneider said this initiative will help reinvigorate, stabilize, and assure all current and future retirees that their savings and their investments are protected.

He said he authored the initial legislative initiative to borrow roughly \$200 million.

"I see my kids getting into the workforce as taxpayers of the Commonwealth as well as thousands of kids coming of age and finding this \$200 million to be part of their lives, working toward making payments for \$200 million to be borrowed so that we can live up to an obligation to the Retirement Fund," he said.

The lawmaker said it will take about 30 years to pay off the \$200 million.

"This is a very, very serious un-

dertaking. And we should all chip in to educate the public as to why we need to consider this initiative in the upcoming election," Hofschneider said.

He said there are approximately 4,000 who have a vested interest in the Fund.

He thanked the members for considering merging the Senate legislative initiative with the initiative that he and the vice speaker introduced.

"This is not about taking credit, this is about coming together and doing the right thing," he said.

## PALAU

From Page 1

view of the Compact of Free Association between the two countries that underpins the tiny island state's economy.

The latest round of talks are due to open Wednesday in Hawaii, with a final round due in Palau in September.

U.S. government aid to Palau over the past 15 years has totaled more than \$852 million, according to a congressional estimate.

"Palau needs a little leniency from strict implementation of the terms of the compact," Palau President Johnson Toribiong told The Associated Press this week.

Toribiong did not specifically mention the Uighurs. But the head of Palau's negotiating team, Joshua Koshiba, said the offer to take the Chinese detainees was "a positive for the negotiation" on the compact.

"I can point my finger at them now and say, 'See, we are helping you too, without asking for help only,'" Koshiba told AP.

If the U.S. doesn't agree to Palau's new terms, Koshiba said, his country will weigh its options.

"When you have a friend, if they don't want to be your friend anymore, what do you do? Don't you look for another friend?" Koshiba said.

Toribiong conceded, however, that Palau has no better ally than Washington, and that "If the U.S. says no, we will still remain close friends and allies."

Mark Bezner, the top U.S. official in Palau who will also take part in the talks, called the extension request "a radical departure" from previous discussions but said Washington would consider any proposal made by the Palauans.

The Uighurs, Turkic Muslims from China's far west, have been in U.S. custody since their capture in Afghani-

stan and Pakistan in 2001. The Pentagon determined last year that they were not "enemy combatants," but they have been stuck in legal limbo ever since.

China considers them separatists and has demanded their return for trial. U.S. officials fear they could be executed if they go back to China. The situation has become even more sensitive since ethnic tensions soared this week between Uighurs and majority Han Chinese in the Muslim home territory of Xinjiang.

Palau last month agreed to take Uighur detainees as part of President Barack Obama's plan to close Guantanamo Bay.

In the highly charged and often aid-driven competition between China and Taiwan for diplomatic recognition among impoverished Pacific countries, Palau recognizes the island that Beijing regards as a renegade province.

A major shift in Palau's geopolitical allegiances is unlikely in the near future.

U.S. links to the cluster of islands that is now Palau dates back to the Spanish-American war. The United States became administrator after World War II, and the compact has been in effect since 1994 when Palau became independent.

More than one third of the microstate's budget comes from the compact, and the U.S. remains responsible for the defense of the country, located about 500 miles (800 kilometers) east of the Philippines.

Palau's roughly 20,000 people are also bound to Americans culturally.

English is one of two official languages, the U.S. dollar is the local currency and the judiciary relies heavily on American rules. Even the food is heavily

U.S.-influenced, from a popular American-style diner owned by a paramount Palauan chief to the wide selection of Spam available on grocery shelves.

As well as direct cash payments, the figure includes postal, aviation and weather services, federal education and health care grants, and a trust fund seeded with \$70 million from Washington.

Palau is supposed to withdraw \$15 million annually from the fund beginning next year in a deal intended to last for 35 years.

But the U.S. has been battered by the global economic downturn and the fund could go bust as early as 2016, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report last year.

## AUDIT

From Page 1

The report, compiled by the auditing firm J. Scott Magliari, states that the 2007 contributions included the 12.77 percent rate adjustment from 24 percent to 36 percent for FY 2006, amounting to \$9 million. Without this adjustment, the 2007 employer contribution would be approximately \$49 million, the auditing firm said.

For employee contributions, the Fund posted a 10-percent increase of \$971,971—or from \$9.7 million in FY 2007 to \$10.6 million last fiscal year.

The Fund's total employee contribution in 2006 amounted to \$10.8 million.

This increase was attributed to the impact of Public Law 15-70, which increased the rate of Class 1 and Class II members from 6.5 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Retirement benefits are sourced primarily from employer and employee contributions, from new investment income, and other additions such as rent and other income.

### '\$60M loss in investment'

The audit report also uncovered a significant loss in the Fund's investments in FY 2008, amounting to

\$60.9 million.

"The financial markets in 2008 were marred by historical levels of uncertainty stemming from the meltdown and subsequent chain of negative shocks within the financial system, the economy in general, and the securities markets," the auditing firm stated in its report.

It said the investment performance dropped significantly from a positive position of \$69.5 million in FY 2007 to a negative position of \$60.9 million in FY 2008.

The unpaid employer contributions, increasing health insurance premiums, refunds, and employers not using the actuarial rate of 36.77 percent for their remittance to the Fund automatically increased the potential risk to the Fund's ability to manage its investments in a prudent way.

Therefore, the report said, it is critical and essential to remit both employer and employee contributions to the Fund to avoid the eventual collapse and depletion of the Fund.

Last Tuesday, the Fund board of trustees adopted two resolutions that would stop the payments of refunds and non-recognition of retiree adoptions for survivor benefits purposes. The moves were intended to stop the financial hemorrhage of the Fund.

## BOY

From Page 1

awards banquet held Tuesday night at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Reyes' prizes included a wheelbarrow, garden tool kit, gloves, a sack of topsoil fertilizer, different seeds of vegetables ready for planting, and other gardening materials.

His proud parents, Edward Sr. and Gloria, said this is the first time their son competed in the event.

There was no money prize for the youth competitors but the acknowledgements Reyes and his parents received from the huge crowd that included Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the rest of the farmers and ranchers were enough motivation for the family to pour more effort into farming.

"He [Reyes Jr.] would like to plant more and will definitely compete again next year," his mother said.

This is exactly what Fitial wanted to hear, who encouraged the islands' farmers and ranchers to continue pro-

viding quality produce for the CNMI's tables.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela was the grand prize winner in the plant category, taking home a total of \$1,045, including the \$500 grand prize.

Joaquin DL. Guerrero Jr. was the grand prize winner in the animal category but he could not attend the awarding ceremony due to health reasons.

His father, Joaquin DL. Guerrero Sr., who received the award, extended his congratulations to the other winners and urged them to nurture not just their products but also the love of farming among the new generation.

"I just would like my fellow farmers and ranchers to encourage their kids to attend to their farms and continue the tradition," he said.

He said the islands' children should learn the importance of agriculture and "how our ancestors survived by growing crops and raising animals during their time."

Guerrero lamented that many children today spend too much time on

electronic games and he wants parents to tell their children to go back to the farms because there is a lot of merit to learning the traditions of the soil.

The Guerreros have been competing in the agricultural fair in the last 20 years and "we have been getting the same awards because we continue to have quality products and we have a system that we use in our farm."

There were a total of 667 fruits, vegetables and root crops entered by 28 participating farmers.

The total prize awarded was \$5,107.

"The agricultural fair is over and it is now time for the awards. This moment has long been anticipated, and this is your celebration," Saipan Agricultural Fair Association president Isidoro Camacho said in his message to farmers and ranchers.

He urged them to encourage one another to look forward to making next year's agricultural fair as successful as this year's.

"We must remember that the fair is for us, for our future farmers and ranchers and for our CNMI," he said.

Aguon said.

The Group Health and Life Insurance Fund acquired the services of Aetna in July 2006 as its third party administrator. Service fees paid by GHLI to Aetna is at \$32.29 per member per month.

The group health insurance plan was privatized on Nov. 1, 2007. Premiums paid by government and the subscribers are remitted to the GHLI Trust Fund which then remits all contributions to Aetna after deducting 1 percent surcharge.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that there is a pending bill at the Governor's Office that would address the problem with Aetna.

House Bill 16-262 appropriated a total of \$122,630 for the payment of

Guerrero said.

According to Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon, approximately \$122,600 has not been paid to Aetna for its services as third-party administrator for two years.

"It's the money we owe Aetna for services they did for us between 2006 and 2007, so it's way past due," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Aguon said the obligation was incurred before Aetna became the Fund's insurance carrier.

"We owe that money and we need to pay. We have a very good working relationship with Aetna as our health insurance carrier and we don't want to jeopardize that relationship by something that is past due for three years,"

runoff claims incurred by members of the Commonwealth government health insurance program with Aetna.

This appropriation is part of the \$295,000 allocated by the bill for several purposes and funding is supposed to come from the excess interest payment from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Offered by Rep. Ray Yumul, the legislation was passed last June 30.

"The Legislature finds that using the excess MPLT interest payments to pay runoff claims that were incurred by members of the CNMI Government Group Health Insurance is an appropriate use of this public resource and will prevent the possible loss of insurance coverage for government employees,"

Yumul's bill stated.

Fund administrator Aguon is optimistic that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will soon act to address this problem with the insurance carrier.

Based on the recently released annual audit reports for 2007 and 2008, the third-party administrator fees paid for the years ending Sept. 31, 2008 and 2007 were \$109,560 and \$1.282 million, respectively.

The surcharge on health insurance premiums for the year ending September 2008 was \$118,723 while health insurance premiums paid to Aetna for the same year was \$11.7 million.

Of the \$11.7 million, \$1.9 million was unremitted as of September 2008 and is recorded as medical premiums.

## NMI

From Page 1

NMI Retirement Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune*, describing the issue as "very critical" to the interest of all government employees and retirees who are members of the Aetna plan.

"Our problem with Aetna is we have runoff obligations that have not been paid and in theory, they have used their line of credit to pay these obligations for the providers. Because of this unpaid obligation, they told us that if we don't pay them they will cancel the health coverage of...our government employees and retirees,"

# One laptop for each high school student eyed

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System wants all high school students to have individual access to their own laptops to help ensure that they meet the academic achievement goals of the system.

Dubbed as the PSS' One Laptop Per Child project, nearly \$1 million is being eyed to procure a total of 3,203 laptop computers for students in five public high schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

According to a PSS proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, all 1,200 students of Marianas High School will be provided personal laptops along with 800 students in Kagman High School, 805 in

Saipan Southern High School, 225 on Tinian, and 173 at Rota High School.

PSS intends to use a portion of the stimulus money for the project, which is expected to cost \$944,885.

"The OLPC project's goal is to place a laptop in the hands of every secondary school student. Another important goal of the program is to acquire versatile laptop computers built from industrial grade components offering the highest quality and reliability that are smaller, lower cost, more energy efficient and quieter than many laptop computers used today," PSS told the U.S. Department of Education.

PSS said the need for students to have reliable access to computers and technology is in high

demand and duly noted and provided for under the No Child Left Behind Act.

It said one of the primary challenges is the affordability of components.

"Today's laptops are virtually a disposable technology, with new and innovative communication devices handling all aspects of data, planning, scheduling and the ability to produce multimedia presentations, projects, and proposals. A laptop for each child will help ensure that this goal, along with many of the academic achievement goals for PSS, are met across the system," PSS stated in justifying the project proposal.

PSS had set a goal of having more than 70 percent of its stu-

dents to be reading at their age level by 2014 and greater than 80 percent of PSS students to be reading at their grade levels by the same year.

Through the laptop project, PSS said students will exhibit an 80-percent increase in vocabulary through the use of software technology and a marked 3- to 5-point increase in their GPA as the success they achieve in the program will transfer to all academic areas.

"Students involved in the program will have a marked increase in the overall SAT-10 scores as indicated in the SSHS projection," PSS added.

## 'Activities, evaluation'

PSS said students in the program will perform various test

functions and tasks on the laptop and will use the technology at their desks, homes, and campus areas.

To monitor the program's success, the student's prog-

ress will be evaluated with the logging of software program summaries.

A rubric of students computer skills will be evaluated by instructors and a schedule of training for laptop use and care will be written and disseminated to the students, instructors, and parents.

## Tinian waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has assigned a green flag to the waters of Tinian after samples showed no excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

In a notice issued yesterday, DEQ said water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm water drainage this week showed no presence of fecal indicator bacteria that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian this week as part of regularly scheduled sampling.

Interested individuals and organizations may receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports by sending an e-mail to [environment@deq.gov.mp](mailto:environment@deq.gov.mp).

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

## Senator supports move to junk cap on alien workers for CUC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has gotten behind the proposal to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire more skilled nonresident workers.

"The reality is that there is just not enough local labor pool to meet the CUC's employment requirement on the expertise needed," Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

CUC executive director Antonio Muña's had asked the Legislature Tuesday to remove the cap on the number of alien workers employed with CUC.

Pangelinan, however, said she hopes Muña is sincere in making an effort to first hire from the local pool of applicants who are qualified for the job.

During Tuesday's meeting with the Senate's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, Muña discussed, among other things, the importance of removing the cap to avoid compromising the utility agency's ability to generate and distribute power.

Muña said it is very important for CUC to fill up vacant positions, considering the required overhauling of power engines and the necessary maintenance that go beyond 2009.

Public Law 16-14 bars CUC from hiring above the 19 non-U.S. citizen technical workers who are presently employed with the agency.

CUC had tried to hire diesel mechanics in the CNMI, but has been unsuccessful in finding qualified candidates.

Pangelinan said she cannot speak for the other PUTC members but she personally supports Muña's recommendation.

She said PUTC chair Sen. Paul Manglona will be addressing the issue further.

Pangelinan said Muña knows what it takes to run the power

plant and CUC.

"I just hope that he would work closely with the NMI Trade Institute and Workforce Investment Agency in eventually replacing foreign workers' need with local labor already trained, certified, and ready to enter the job market," she said.

The senator pointed out that employment—regardless of whether they are foreign or local—helps build the tax base of the government.

She said that before Muna's time, CUC had been given more than enough time to train local people. "Unfortunately, it was not pursued as the law mandated. But we cannot allow the past to paralyze the future," Pangelinan added.

The cap, she said, would not impact the general fund budget unless CUC is not able to generate the revenue it needs to meet its operational expenditures, or the demand to comply with the stipulated court orders require additional financial support from the general fund.

The Legislature has already earmarked \$1.7 million to CUC for 2009 and 2010, using funds from the defunct Marianas Public Lands Trust interest that was supposed to go to the general fund.

Muña said CUC generates a budget of at least a million dollars a year.

If so, Pangelinan said, the general fund revenue sources for 2010 is only \$162.8 million, leaving the CNMI government with \$148.8 million (after debt) to support health, education, safety and all three branches of government operations.

The senator said Muña is making good progress in turning around a bankrupt agency to making it sustainable again without more bailouts from the general fund.

"He should be supported and commended for the many accomplishments he has made so far," she said.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
-v- )  
 )  
ESTATE OF JOAQUIN G. )  
ADRIANO, and )  
MARIAN S. ADRIANO )  
(aka MARIAN P. SABLAN), )  
Defendants. )

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 15, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants the Estate of Joaquin G. Adriano and Marian S. Adriano (aka Marian P. Sablan) in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

**LOT NO. 0051360**, containing an area of 999 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 1 07 dated September 30, 1983.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on July 16, 2009, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

**Warranties and Covenants.** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**  
a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.  
b. **Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.  
c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.  
d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

**Enforcement of Auction Sale.**  
a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.  
b. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.  
c. **Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

**Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of June, 2009:  
  
/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

# Tinian High JROTC team shines at nat'l competition



The Tinian High School's JROTC Academic Team, composed of cadet 2LT Carl Lou Espinosa, cadet SFC Richeena Farrell, cadet SSG Alana Takasi, and cadet SSG Mary Hocog, competes in the College Options Foundation National Academic Challenge at the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on June 27-30, 2009. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian High School's JROTC Academic Team is joined by LTC Robert Gay and SFC Damian during a visit to the office of CNMI Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan on Capitol Hill.

The Tinian High School's four-person JROTC Academic Team traveled 9,000 miles to the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on June 24 to compete in the College Options Foundation National Academic Challenge on June 27-30, 2009.

The Tinian contingent—cadet 2LT Carl Lou Espinosa, cadet SFC Richeena Farrell, cadet SSG Alana Takasi, and cadet SSG Mary Hocog—led by their Army instructor, SSgt. (retired) Roger Thompson, had been preparing for this rigorous event since March 2009.

LTC Robert Gay, director of Army Instruction and SFC Damian of the DAI Office handled all the travel arrangements and operational support of the team. Regina Palacios from TJSHS accompanied the team as chap-erone and academic adviser.

Tinian was part of the 24 JROTC teams—comprising the top 1 percent of all the JROTC programs nationwide—that saw action at the National Academic Challenge. Tinian competed in a round-robin challenge protocol facing off against nine other high school teams.

The academic challenge consisted of various academic disciplines to include JROTC Curriculum, Math, History, Current Events, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Anatomy, Literature, Mythology, etc.

On Friday June 26, the Tinian team had the opportunity to meet with CNMI Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan on Capitol Hill. Sablan and his staff prepared lunch for the cadets. The cadets then presented him their 30-minute PowerPoint briefing on the history and culture of Tinian, the CNMI and events of World War II.

The Tinian team was also asked by College Options Foundation to present a 10-minute briefing of the history, culture, and background of Tinian and the CNMI to the entire assembly. The cadet presentation occurred the evening of June 28. Their performance proved to be the highlight of the evening as the assembled crowd of 400 cadets, Army officers and non-commissioned officers and distinguished guests rose in unison and provided the Tinian team a thunderous standing ovation. The master of ceremonies, the

long-time serving Cadet Command JROTC director, Col. Carlos Glover, heaped great thanks and praise on the Tinian team. Maj. Gen. Arthur M. Bartell, the Commanding General of Cadet Command, personally recognized the Tinian cadets' performance and stressed the strength and unity of Cadet Command and JROTC throughout the world. Numerous Army officers and NCOs stopped by the Tinian team's table after the event and thanked them and praised them on their performance and educating the crowd on the glorious history and culture of the CNMI.

Terry Wilfong, president of the College Options Foundation and his staff, proffered effusive praise of the Tinian team and their accomplishments throughout the competition. The Tinian team became the center of discussion at this prestigious event and all of their fellow cadets marveled at the distance they had traveled to be there and were asked numerous questions about where Tinian was located and what it was like. Cadet Alana Takasi was also asked to present as one of the distinguished general officers in the Washington, DC tour of monuments and historical sites on June 29.

Gay said many of the JROTC officers and non-commissioned officers at the competition spoke glowingly about Tinian and how proud they were that they had made it to the final round of competition.

"The Tinian High School JROTC participation signifies that the CNMI Public School System and its JROTC Program are preparing our cadets and high school students for competition at the highest level," said Gay. "The Tinian JROTC cadets are extremely appreciative of all the support provided to them from Tinian High School, the CNMI PSS, Cadet Command, the College Options Foundation, and the Tinian delegates."

Gay said this experience "has provided us the knowledge to build on our collective efforts and achievements in our CNMI JROTC program and further define learning strategies that will enhance our JROTC High School Programs for future opportunities to compete in these prestigious events." (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP09-GOV-114

### "Saipan Geothermal Project"

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lietenant Governor Eloy S. Inos are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect scientific data to determine the availability/existence of geothermal energy on Saipan.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect extensive data will require the successful proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently deep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, or upon request by email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). Interested proposers may submit questions or inquiries regarding this RFP, by email only and **in pdf. format** no later than July 10, 2009, and addressed to [fmsablan@gmail.com](mailto:fmsablan@gmail.com). Responses to Questions will be provided no later than July 14, 2009.

Sealed proposals must be submitted with one (1) original, five (5) hard copies, and one (1) digitized version to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at the date and time stated below. Proposals may also be submitted by email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com), no later than 10:00 a.m., July 20, 2009, and marked "RFP09-GOV-114 Saipan Geothermal Project".

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section NMIAC 70-30.3-210. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

A. Technical Factors

Qualifications of the Proposed Project Team	30%
Feasibility and Technical Soundness of the Drilling Plan	30%
Experience Doing Exploratory Drilling	20%
Ability to Begin the Project within a Short Time after Award	20%

B. Cost Factor

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase and the government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, P & S

# House panel weighs in on unpaid MTC payouts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation & Communication has asked IT&E to produce some documents and answer some questions relating to the issue of unpaid pension payouts to former employees of the Micronesia Telecommunications

Corp., now IT&E.

In a letter Tuesday to IT&E executive vice president Larry Knecht, committee chair Rep. Victor B. Hocog warned that failure to respond to his request within seven days may lead to further investigation by the PUTC, including a possible oversight hearing, on the issue.

Hocog said inaction may also result in PUTC's request

for oversight investigation by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Pension Benefits Guarantee Commission.

Knecht recently told *Saipan Tribune* that the company is committed to distributing the pension payouts.

"Everybody will receive what they're entitled to, former or current employees. It's just a matter of when. It will depend on the market condition, and approval from proper authorities. We just ask for patience. It may be paid within the next six to 12 months," Knecht said.

Over a hundred former employees of MTC have yet to receive over \$1 million in total pension payout that the company is supposed to distribute on or before June 2009.

Hocog asked Knecht to provide a copy, if there is any, of a Pension Benefits Guarantee Commission letter approving

IT&E's request for an extension of the distribution of the MTC pension funds to June 2009.

Hocog also asked for a copy of a letter, if there is any, regarding IT&E's request for an additional extension for the distribution of the MTC pension funds after June 2009.

The lawmaker also asked the company to provide information on the following questions:

■ If IT&E did not request for an additional extension of the distribution of the MTC pension funds, did the company distribute the funds in June 2009?

■ If IT&E failed to distribute the pension funds in June 2009, please explain your reason for failing to distribute the funds?

■ When does IT&E plan to distribute the MTC pension funds to the retirees?

■ Does IT&E intend to notify the retirees when their pension payments will be distributed as required by law? If so, when

will they be notified?

Hocog wrote the letter after PUTC learned that the retirees of MTC's retirement plan have not received their lump sum retirement/pension benefits as of June 30, 2009.

Hocog said that pursuant to Knecht's letter of Nov. 14, 2008, the company received a notice to distribute the pension funds by March 22, 2009.

However, the lawmaker said, the company asked for an extension from the PBGC to distribute the funds in June 2009.

He said it appears that the PBGC approved IT&E's request for an extension because MTC retirees have not received their pension payments.

Hocog said June 2009 has come and the retirees have yet to receive their pension payments.

He said MTC retirees also reported that IT&E failed to give them any notice of a further

extension of the distribution of their pension payments.

"PUTC is concerned about the delay in the distribution of the MTC retirees' pension payments. These retirees invested many years with your company and deserve to be paid their pension benefits. Some members retired years ago without receiving their benefits and others have even passed away," Hocog said.

He reminded the company that federal law requires the distribution of such funds upon the termination of the MTC retirement plan.

"It is unacceptable to keep retirees in the dark and that no one at IT&E can give them any useful information," Hocog added.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Red Cross health and safety training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training in July 2009:

■ Adult CPR – July 25, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm

■ First Aid – July 25, 2009, Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm

■ Infant & Child CPR – Aug. 15, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm

The training fee for adult CPR and first aid is \$30 per person/per course and the training fee for the infant and child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

### St Jude 10th Annual Golf Tournament

The St Jude 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament tee off time is at 7am, Saturday, July 11, at Lao lao Golf Resort's West Course. Call Fr. Charlie Borja for tickets at 288-0007. Banquet immediately follows after tournament. (PR)

### LOI deadline for Democratic Party

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to announce to interested candidates that the deadline for submitting letters of intent to run as a Democrat is July 10. Letters can be emailed to nmi-democrats@gmail.com. Questions should be directed to Credentials chair Pete Arriola at 287-7769. Individuals who want to register as an NMI Democrat are encouraged to do so. The Democratic Party welcomes all who want "New Beginning, New Leaders, New Direction." (PR)

### Live fire releases on FDM

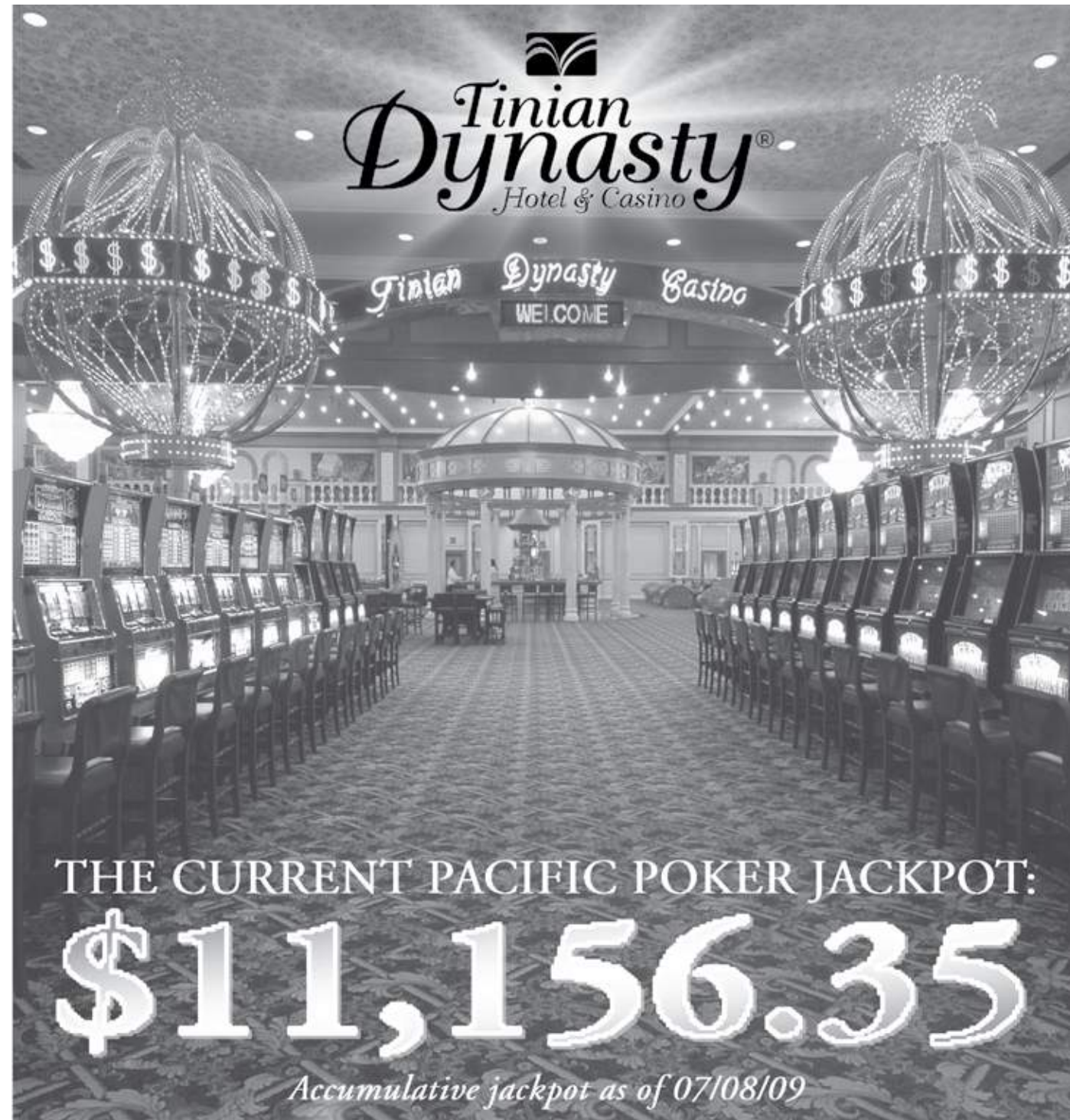
The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases (96 EBS) on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, July 9, from 4pm to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is

strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)



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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
**BANK OF GUAM,** Plaintiff,  
**vs.**  
**MANASSES S. BORJA,** Defendant.

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to the Order Following Status Conference and Order to Auction Real Property, dated July 6, 2009, issued by The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Manasses S. Borja's reversionary interest in Lot 099 E 1, located in Talofofo, Saipan, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The Sale will be held on Friday, July 24, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Inspection of Property.** The property described as Lot 99 E 01, (formerly known as AH 268) as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 099 E 01, the original of which was recorded 19 Dec 89 as Document No. 89-4295 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. It may be viewed and inspected one day prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Schedule of inspection can be made before July 22, 2009, by calling O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes with Telephone No. (670) 234-5684 and Fax No. (670) 234-5683.

**Warranties and Covenants.** The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

**Conduct of Sale.**  
A) Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.  
B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.  
C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.  
D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated, this 7th of July, 2009

/s/ O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,  
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

# Water outage in Kagman, Papago

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a water outage in Kagman and Papago areas on Saturday, July 11, 2009, from 7:30am to 6:30pm.

The water outage will affect customers residing along Isa Drive down Kagman Road and the intersection of ChaCha Road.

The CUC Water Division's distribution maintenance crew

is scheduled to work on the upper Kagman reservoir to seal all holes and openings, and inspect, clean and disinfect the storage tank. This required work is necessary to protect treated stored water and provide improved overall water quality for public consumption. This work will enable the Water Division to company with the stipulated order concerning drinking wa-

ter operations and maintenance in correcting major sanitary deficiencies cited during storage tanks inspections. Water service will be restored to affected customers as soon as the work is completed.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period.

Rainwater catchments systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks.

For more information, contact Bruce Megarr, deputy director for Water & Wastewater Operations, at 235-7032 Ext: 172 or Alan Lebria, acting water and wastewater operations manager at Ext. 152. (CUC)

## 'Act now to counter climate change effects'

**MADANG, Papua New Guinea**—Decisive action has to be taken now to assist Pacific Island countries and territories to cope with the negative effects of climate change, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the World Health Organization warned in a meeting here yesterday.

Island nations, already facing serious economic and health challenges, have to be equipped with the skills and tools needed to minimize the negative impacts of global warming on health and livelihood, the meeting of Pacific Island Ministers of Health was told.

Climate change is among the key issues being discussed at the July 7-9 gathering, which

is drawing up and implementing plans to control and prevent escalating health consequences for the region. The meeting, the eighth since 1995, is in line with continuing efforts to improve people's health in Pacific island nations.

The low-lying nature of some Pacific Island countries and territories makes them especially vulnerable to climate change. The damaging features of projected changes in climate include a rise in sea levels, greater frequency and intensity of floods and droughts and more powerful cyclones. Such changes pose enormous challenges for societies in the Pacific. In almost all countries and territories, critical facil-

ities—ousing, power-generating stations, schools, banks, hospitals and clinics, airports, business districts—are located in coastal areas exposed to severe climate events. At greatest risk, experts say, are Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

In addition, many studies have noted that the projected impact of climate change on health, such as vector-borne diseases, waterborne and food-borne diseases, drowning and injuries, and food security and malnutrition, as well as clean water supplies, will jeopardize economic stability and Islanders' livelihoods and lifestyles.

SPC, with WHO and other partner agencies, has been work-

ing with member countries and territories to help develop national and regional capacity to implement the *Regional Framework for Action to Protect Human Health from the Effects of Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region* and the multisectoral *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change* in a coordinated way to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

However, the ability of some countries to cope with potentially increasing levels of risk and disease related to climate change is limited, particularly in developing and small island countries. This is the time for action, the meeting was told. (SPC)

### PACIFIC BRIEFS

#### Air Pacific flight grounded in Auckland

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—Air Pacific was forced to charter a Qantas aircraft early this week because of a bird strike. An Auckland-bound Air Pacific Boeing 747 was hit by a bird on Sunday. "On arrival in Auckland, engineers examined the engine and found some damaged fan blades which required rectification before the aircraft could be returned to service. "The interior of the engine also required a boroscope inspection to ensure that the bird had not passed through other blades or caused damage to the interior of the engine," he said.

#### Pacific leaders to meet in New Caledonia

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The French High Commission in New Caledonia says it now expects the French summit with Pacific leaders to be held in Noumea as planned on July the 31. It says the official confirmation from Paris is likely to be given either tomorrow or the day after. The High Commission says

the gathering will be hosted by the French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, and the newly appointed junior minister in charge of overseas territories, Marie-Luce Penchard. This confirms suggestions that the Prime Minister Francois Fillon would not be available after reports that President Nicolas Sarkozy pulled out of the trip.

#### Tokelau tells UN: Not ready for decolonization

**APIA, Samoa** (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Tokelau's leader has told a United Nations committee that his country recognizes the importance of strengthening its essential services before it can revisit the issue of self-determination in the future. Faipule Foua Toloa, the leader of Tokelau, said in his Statement to the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation, that the General Fono (the national Parliament of Tokelau) had decided that consideration of any future acts of self-determination would be deferred until such time that Tokelau is ready. Faipule Toloa was addressing the annual session of the Special Committee held in New York, last week.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 9, 1999

#### Businessmen seek delay of takeover oversight hearing

In a move to save its limited resources, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association have sought a postponement on the scheduled July 27 oversight hearing by the U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee. Chamber President Kerry M. Deets said the delegates from the business sector are concerned over the expenses they would incur in joining the trip since they would have to go back to Washington for another hearing on Sept. 16, 1999 called by the House Resources Committee headed by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska). "It becomes very expensive for us because the two trips will be held within a short period of time," said Deets in a letter to Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska).

#### PSS: No teacher shortage this time

There will be enough teachers in public schools when classes open this August, a Public School System official said yesterday. "We have fulfilled our recruitment needs by 80 to 85 percent. The remaining 15 to 20 percent vacancies will be filled before schools open," said Charlie Kenty, head of the PSS Human Resource Office. Kenty said 102 applicants have responded to the two-day job fair held by PSS last month. PSS will fill up 59 positions vacated by teachers who either retired or resigned last December and those who left their posts this summer.

July 9, 2001

#### CNMI remains rural—census

Not even a 60 percent increase in population count helped elevate the Commonwealth's classification from a rural to an urban area, as results of the Census 2000 disclosed the CNMI being home to only 69,221 people. According to the Census 2000 report released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Saipan is home to 62,392 people while Rota and Tinian have a population of 3,283 and 3,540 respectively. In 1990, there were only 43,345 people in the Northern Marianas. The entry of thousands of nonresident workers into the islands during the Commonwealth economy's boom years in the early 1990s contributed to the 60 percent growth in the CNMI's population.

#### \$2M sought for nursing program

The Department of Public Health is seeking \$2 million in additional funds to support its nursing program. The amount requested is apart from existing funds that the agency has reserved for the future hiring of off-island nurses. After recently recovering from a crisis in nurse shortage, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said DPH continues to survey its financial resources in the area of hiring nurses directly, instead of channeling it through manpower agencies. "Unfortunately, it's a financial issue. Right now, we're saving, money-wise, but it's too much hassle. I'd rather hire directly," said the DPH chief.

July 9, 2002

#### Typhoon after typhoon for NMI

Days after typhoon Chata'an devastated Rota and caused destruction in other parts of the Northern Marianas, another weather disturbance—tropical storm Halong—continues to gain strength and speed as it approaches the region and is expected to hit the islands tomorrow, based on a weather forecast released by the Emergency Management Office. EMO Director Rudolfo Pua said emergency response teams are bracing again for the possible battering of the islands, even if rehabilitation efforts, especially in Rota, have not been implemented in full scale. "We are looking at Wednesday or Wednesday evening. Our projection is that it's going to be a typhoon by the time it approaches our area. By the time it comes to the Saipan area, it has a typhoon strength," Pua said.

#### CPA prepares for approaching storm

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday ordered the strict implementation of typhoon measures, as it prepares for another weather disturbance reportedly approaching the Northern Marianas and expected to hit Saipan on Wednesday. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said all tenants at the Commonwealths airports and harbors have been advised of the approaching typhoon-international name Halong—that currently raps Pohnpei. Salas said all preparations were undertaken and precautionary measures have been disseminated, adding that the ports authority remains on stand-by in case of emergency.

### COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



## NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitral and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2009, at 1:30 P.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

### AGENDA

#### I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

#### II. OTHER MATTERS

##### ONE START Applications:

- GPPC - Shipbuilding Project
- Juan T. Lizama - Ground Clearing and Grading Project in Puerto Rico
- Bernard R. Cruz - Ground Leveling and Extraction Project in Tanapag

##### Update on Marpi Brownfields Project

#### III. ADJOURNMENT

All persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the CRM Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.  
Director

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JOSEPH S. ROMOLOR and TOIKO K. ROMOLOR, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0359

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 10, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot 001 G 57, as more particularly described in Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 03 the original of which was recorded 20 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-0510 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan, Description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 17th, July, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, June 22, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman  
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Lydia Mendiola Dela Cruz  
P.O. Box 7729 SVRB  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 235-1486

pro se

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:

Denalyn Quitugua Dela Cruz, Jayna Lyann Quitugua Dela Cruz, Lyena Quitugua Dela Cruz, Minor Children  
By: LYDIA MENDIOLA DELA CRUZ, Petitioner

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0390

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Robert S. McNamara: From stock villain to tragic character in a searing war

In the movies, people who look like Robert S. McNamara never fare very well. The brainy, severe guy with the slicked-down hair, the glasses, the hard-charging managerial style and an unchallengeable faith in his own intellectual superiority is a stock character, generally portrayed as insufferable, inhuman and sometimes downright evil.

Life isn't the movies, of course, but during the long and tragic American involvement in Vietnam, it wasn't always easy to tell the difference. The passionate opposition to America's role in the war included a search for heroes and, more commonly, villains that extended even to American servicemen (a sharp contrast to today's conflicts, in which even the fiercest opponents of American military actions are careful not to attack those who carry them out). And a primary villain of the anti-war people, then and for years to come, was Mr. McNamara, secretary of defense from 1961 to 1968. As the death toll rose, American and Vietnamese, he was seen as the leader of those who dutifully pursued the American goal of defeating insurgent forces, no matter what the cost. By the end of his life, however, Mr. McNamara, who died this week at the age of 93, had come to be seen more as a figure out of Shakespeare than of cinema, tormented by guilt over his role in the Vietnam War, driven to stabilize and rein in the nuclear arms race, in which he had also figured large, devoting himself (as president of the World Bank) to alleviating poverty.

But Mr. McNamara was never forgiven by many of his bitter enemies from the Vietnam days. (In one strangely cinematic incident in 1972, another passenger on a ferry near Martha's Vineyard tried to throw him overboard.) And in 1995, 30 years after the launching of the American buildup in Vietnam, Mr. McNamara made the astonishing (if only for its candor) admission that he had suspected almost from the beginning that the war could not be won. Rather than closure, that brought a new wave of vilification, not just from the war opponents but from those who had supported the American action and saw Mr. McNamara's attempt at penance, or at an honest accounting, as a betrayal.

Vietnam was called "McNamara's War" by one of his Senate critics, and to some degree the term stuck. But in truth, no appointed official makes a war on his own, or with the intellectual brilliance of his analysis. Any president, once forces are involved in a conflict, is under intense political pressure not to "lose" the war, as are members of Congress. Mr. McNamara, fairly early in the escalating Vietnam conflict, raised doubts about the military strategy the country was following. He got nowhere, the war went on—and Mr. McNamara moved on, to the World Bank and many years of private and public agonizing over what he'd done. The true McNamara's War, as it turned out, was longer than Vietnam, and was fought mostly within himself.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



## Advanced planning

It cost several hundred thousand dollars to train me to become a navigator in the US Air Force. As a nav, I was responsible for flight planning before our sortie, ensuring the plan was followed during the flight, and then reviewing the flight with crew members during our debriefing.

Some of the refueling flights required complex coordination with other aircraft to rendezvous at a specific time and place so that the other aircraft could complete its mission. When the weather was good, it was a simple matter to just follow the plan and ensure we met specific time and location targets. However, when storm clouds created obstacles that required us to divert from our original plan and refuel at an alternate rendezvous point, I had to replan in the air. What normally took an hour to plan on the ground, now had to be completed in less than 10 minutes in turbulent air.

After several of these hectic, aerial planning sessions, I realized that there are a finite number of predetermined rendezvous points and so I did some advanced planning by creating plastic templates with holes at each turn point of the refueling tracks. Now when a contingency plan was needed to refuel at a different rendezvous point, I simply pulled out the template, placed it on the chart, made the pencil mark dots in the holes, and simply connected the dots. Within a couple of minutes, I could tell the pilot the new heading.

Aircraft are required to file a flight plan, even when the weather is good and it's a simple trip from point A to point B. Businesses, on the other hand, often operate by the seat of their pants. When conditions are good, they can simply go with the flow. Stormy economic conditions, however, require that businesses understand the obstacles and create a plan to deal with them.

In our survey of 21 businesses, we asked owners and managers to share their biggest external threats and internal frustrations? We documented 31 responses that were the subject of previous articles. We then asked a third question: *Do you have a written plan or strategy that you and your staff are successfully following to resolve any or all of the frustrations you mentioned, within the next 6-12 months?*

Here are the responses: Two said **Yes** and 19 said **No**. Nine in ten businesses that we surveyed do not have a written plan that addresses the major threats, frustrations, obstacles, and challenges they are facing. Some were operating according to directives from off-island headquarters, others are monitoring the situation, communicating with customers, or just reacting to the situation.

In times of turbulence and rapid change, you must develop a strategy in advance to assure the long-term survival and growth of your business. Businesses that do not have a contingency plan to deal with disruptive situations and major obstacles are at the mercy of

### By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.biz](http://www.bizresults.biz)). They can be contacted at [biz\\_results@yahoo.com](mailto:biz_results@yahoo.com).



the economic winds of change.

The plan does not necessarily need to be a complex, formalized plan, but your organization needs something that is documented and allows everyone in the business to understand the issues and how they can help resolve them. If you have a plan and your competition does not, you are at an advantage because you can move beyond worry and fear to discover areas of growth within your industry.

With a plan you look forward while the competition looks backwards. You're planning for expansion while the competition is considering a liquidation sale. You see opportunities, overlooked markets, and transactions that no one saw in good times, so they're oblivious in times of financial struggle. Here is a simple strategy that has four points to help you to GROW your business. The acronym stands for Goals, Resources, Obstacles, and Written plan.

**Goals** – Make a written detailed statement about what you want to accomplish.

**Resources** – Take a written inventory of all your available resources within your business and outside your business. Find ways that you can leverage the resources of others.

**Obstacles** – Make a written inventory of all the obstacles you are facing as well as your competitor's resources. These are the things that would keep you from achieving your goals.

**Written plan** – Now it's time to explain exactly how your resources will be used to overcome the resources of your competition and other external threats. Precisely identify how you will overcome your internal obstacles and the steps to make your goal a reality. This includes specific tasks, the individuals responsible to accomplish each task, and the deadline to get it done.

Translating your mental thoughts into a tangible document allows you to get better feedback from others, and it allows them to understand your expectations and their responsibilities. Flying by the seat of your pants only works when you can see where you're going. In today's uncertain environment you need a plan to keep you on course.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Items in the news

Sometimes a ton of stuff hits the media-powered airwaves all at the same time. It seems that this is one of those times. Things that actually matter, at least to some degree, and to many if not most people have definitely come to the fore.

The papers gave what has to be a conservative estimate to the Liberation Day festivities this past weekend, five thousand was the number banded about. As it happens, my daily regimen of long range walking—usually four to five miles on the beach path—made me believe that the numbers were somewhat greater than that. I think I counted a bit less than 12 million parked up and down the roadway. It was a happy horde as well. Everybody was friendly, having a good time, and determined to face down the weather if it dared to show its negative side. Fortunately, the weather gods chickened out. I thought it amazing that before the

festivities began, and after the floats had been sent back to the barn, that the weather unleashed its fury without remorse, but not during the heart of the celebrations.

I've been holding my breath, as have many others, that the college would finally get the WASC accreditation that it had worked so hard in recent months to achieve. The good news is that the school is cool until 2012 (three years) is most very welcome. The only college in the CNMI and one of the few American schools of higher education in the entire Pacific absolutely had to be accredited, and now it has been. With stimulus money coming down the pike and NMC's needs many, it looks as if the college is turning around and ready to assume its place as a supplier of teachers and nursing grads, among others; we need 'em!

The public school system of the CNMI has to be happy. All of its school are accredited, it's scores are rising overall, No Child Left

### By STEPHEN B. SMITH

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.*

Behind requirements are being fulfilled, stimulus money is about to be allocated to the many vital programs it, PSS, is responsible for; and, many of our students have done very well and a number of national championship events (NFL, NJFL, ITS, JITS) in the states—one student placing as high as fifth in the nation.

## Sarah Palin lacks what the GOP needs most

By DOYLE MCMANUS

(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Is Sarah Palin the answer the Republican Party is looking for? Not likely. Palin's abrupt announcement that she's quitting as governor of Alaska may be part of a long-term strategy that leads to the Oval Office. But at the moment, it looks more like the impulsive act of a hot-headed politician who can't abide criticism—poor attributes for anyone who hopes to run for president.

Take Palin at her word: She decided to quit because she didn't think she could get much done for Alaska in her remaining 18 months in office, beset as she was with ethics charges that never seemed to go away.

"My staff and I spend most of our day ... dealing with this stuff instead of progressing our state," she complained.

It's possible that Palin knows something we don't about "this stuff," and that's what spurred her to resign. But even if she doesn't, it's easy to see why being governor wasn't much fun anymore.

Palin's popularity in Alaska has sunk from 93 percent in 2007 to 54 percent in May, still a respectable rating but a huge drop.

She faced a tough fight for re-election in 2010. She had few strong allies among Republicans in the Alaska Legislature after alienating many with her headstrong style. She had few prospects of closing out her term on a wave of landmark achievements that would boost her as a national candidate.

And she had a few laurels to rest on. After two years in office, she had accomplished her three main goals: higher taxes on oil production, legislation authorizing a new natural gas pipeline and ethics reform. The rest of her agenda -- a new budget, education reform and negotiations over the pipeline contract -- looked more difficult and less rewarding. Another year in the governor's office could merely have diminished her standing. She quit, in short, to cut her losses while she could still plausibly claim to be ahead.

She says she still wants to have national impact, and she promises to campaign for candidates around the country who share her ruggedly conservative views: "I'll work for and campaign for those proud to be American, and those who are inspired by our ideals and won't deride them."

She looks and sounds, well, like Sarah Palin, but she also looks and sounds like a politician who wants another turn on the national stage.

Palin's main asset, of course, is a base of fervent support among social conservatives who see her as fresh, exciting and embattled -- the people who responded to her resignation by sending contributions to her fundraising committee, SarahPAC.

The problem for Palin and her party is that she doesn't have what Republicans need most: an idea.

For the last half-century, the GOP has prided itself on being the "party of ideas," a coalition that constantly invented new ways to apply its basic principles -- smaller government, lower taxes and an assertive foreign policy -- to the nation's problems.

Under George W. Bush, the string of successful ideas ran out. In 2008, it was the Democrats of Barack Obama, not the GOP, who won by proposing a detailed agenda of new policies and new initiatives.

In Congress, a notably uncharismatic collection of Republican leaders continues to reaffirm the ancient tenets of their faith: Government spending is bad, and taxes should be reduced. But that won't add up to a winning national platform unless Obama turns out to be a miserable failure and voters reflexively turn the other way.

Hence the search by many Republicans for an attractive idea or two. In 2000, Bush won votes from independents and centrists by proclaiming himself a "compassionate conservative," a governor who reformed his state's education system even as he kept a close eye on the purse strings.

And Palin? A voter interested in her approach to national issues will look in vain for new ideas. Her 18-minute statement on Friday introduced a new aphorism to American politics: "Only dead fish go with the flow." But it offered no priorities for Alaska or the nation beyond a handful of broad-brush goals: "Energy independence and smaller government and national security and freedom."

In her 2008 vice presidential campaign and since, she has been a champion not so much of ideas as of attitudes: anger at the national media, fear of a "big-government takeover," and the charge that unnamed liberals (presumably including Barack and Michelle Obama) "deride" American ideals. Those aren't ideas; they're slogans.

Palin may have the recipe for winning the hearts of the 37 percent of Americans who describe themselves as conservatives, but it won't attract votes from the 38 percent who call themselves moderates -- and who remain the key to any presidential election.

Which brings us to Palin's second flaw as a national candidate:

She's a polarizer, not a unifier.

Bush, now remembered as a polarizing president, won the White House twice by tempering his conservatism just enough to win a hearing from independents. Palin knows no such urge. It is easy to imagine her winning an Iowa caucus, where the Republican electorate is dominated by social conservatives, but almost impossible to imagine her winning a primary in New Hampshire or Michigan, let alone a general election in 50 states.

And there's a third flaw.

Republicans prize another old-fashioned virtue: steadiness. The GOP likes to think of itself as the party of solidity, orderliness and competence. Republicans often win governor's seats in otherwise Democratic states simply by promising to run the government better than liberals can.

That's where Palin's abrupt career change last week will hurt her in the long run: It has confirmed Republicans' sense that she's not merely a "maverick" -- an attribute the party never prized much anyway -- but a flake.

"She seemed more like a spoiled celebrity than a serious public official," former Bush aide Michael Gerson said on PBS. "She's now becoming more of a kook than a serious candidate," former Ronald Reagan campaign manager Ed Rollins said on CNN.

Unfair as it may be, Palin faces an added burden as a female: She dare not appear "emotional," a word that's rarely applied to male politicians. Her sometimes-breathless performance on Friday didn't help.

Social and cultural conservatives may thrill to her tones. Political reporters may (indeed, do) yearn to see her run. Television producers eagerly anticipate the ratings her national candidacy might bring.

But for a party working to regain its footing as the champion of conservative ideas in a nation whose electorate will soon be ready to listen, this sled dog won't pull.

Republicans sometimes say they're looking for another Reagan: a full-fledged conservative with serious government experience who can make their party's creed not just nonthreatening but downright attractive to most voters. But Sarah Palin, as she demonstrated on Friday, is no Ronald Reagan.

*McManus is a Times columnist. He can be reached at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Congratulations!

To the All Stars Junior league of the CNMI: Congratulations to each and every one of you for making it to the World Series. We, the parents, and your most loyal fans, are very happy and proud of your outstanding performance and excellent accomplishment in the 2009 Regional Tournament in Jakarta. All of you young men deserve the biggest congratulations for a job well done. We parents want to let you young men know that we will continue to do our best to support your ultimate goal of coming back home with the championship from the World Series in August. We cannot begin to describe just how proud we are of you all and we promise to do our best to be with you all on your journey to Taylor, Michigan, as you head there to compete for the championship in the World Series. Your success will be the great accomplishment that CNMI baseball league will ever have. We parents will do all the best we can to be able joint you all in this journey to the World Series to represent the CNMI.

To coach Manny, from the parents and six Patriots players who are in the All Star team: We want to thank you very much for being there with our kids during the Regional Tournament in Jakarta. You

have always told us that you will be there for the kids even if you were not chosen to coach them. Thank you for all the time and effort that you sacrificed to be there to train them before they went to Jakarta. And even in Jakarta you went all out to inspire the players and coached them to carry the torch of victory. All the players and parents felt you were there for the kids. You even paid for your own airfare and whatever expense that was needed. Coach Manny, you believed in the kids that they can make it to the World Series. Your dedication and skills gave them strength to reach that goal. All of us parents and fans want to thank you very much for being there.

We also wanted to find out where the trophies are that they've won from the regular season. The kids won pennant and championship. It's kind of sad that they won both and still don't have the trophies. Now they're on the way to the World Series. We really hope that the community acknowledges these kids for their hard work to make it to the World Series.

To all the players, congratulation and were very proud of all of you.

**Josephine Rabauliman**  
*Chalan Laulau, Saipan*

## Sham marriage






To Mr. Jaime Vergara: I just read "A mission of mercy" and I am now fully convinced you are on some type of drugs. Your letters week after week are filled with flowery words which you use it appears to make yourself sound important; you jump from one strange idea to another but say very little, and when you do have an idea which the reader can follow you show your lack of being grounded in reality. Let me get this straight: A frail old man meets a Chinese girl on the Internet. She is actively trying to get a USA citizen to marry her so she can come to the USA. He speaks no Chinese, she no English. They've met ONCE, for a week, and then they get married. Now you enter the picture by trying to convince the consulate that she should be allowed to come to the USA because she is married to the citizen? How much clearer can it be that this is a sham marriage? Would the Chinese girl have to say she is trying scam the system? *She has!* Then you start a paragraph with "A matter of right"? You think she has a right? To what? Put the pipe and pen down and pull your head out of the clouds. Your lights are on but no one's home. I'm quite surprised your letters are printed at all.

**William McCue**  
*Wellington, FL*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

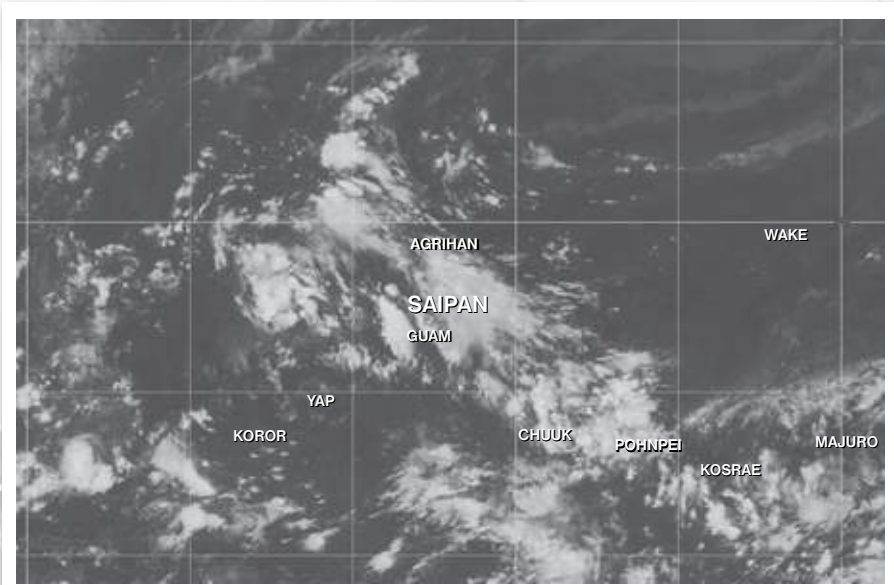
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Clear	▲86 ▼73
Palau	Cloudy	▲78 ▼75
Yap	Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲82 ▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲55 ▼42
Beijing	Cloudy	▲91 ▼71
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲68 ▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼62
Manila	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲78 ▼67
Osaka	Rain	▲81 ▼72
Paris	Cloudy	▲73 ▼53
Pusan	Rain	▲78 ▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲82 ▼60
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼54
Seoul	Rain	▲88 ▼70
Tokyo	Showers	▲81 ▼71
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲84 ▼67

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:10 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:44 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:13 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:15 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation near 17N127E to the equator at 153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found around and east of the circulation between 22N and 15N from 127E to 135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also located near the trough axis in a broad area including Koror, within 175 miles of a line from 7N132E to 3N147E. A surface trough west of the Marianas extending from 15N142E to 10N143E in conjunction with an upper-level low centered northeast of the Marianas at 20N150E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 120 miles of a line from 17N142E to 9N143E, as well as southeast of the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 9N144E to 14N153E. A surface trough extending from 11N160E to 3N157E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei or within 90 miles of a line from 4N157E to 8N159E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM	Today	8:13 PM	7:08 AM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM	Friday	8:51 PM	7:57 AM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM	Saturday	9:26 PM	8:45 AM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM	Sunday	10:01 PM	9:32 AM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM	Monday	10:36 PM	10:20 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
  - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
  - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 3, 2009

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7	C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
				C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7	C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
				C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily	C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5	C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
				C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO	NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily	NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 4, 6	OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily	NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 4, 6 via KIX	OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA				MANILA-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	C0894/9604	10:00am	5:50pm	6 via GUM
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09317/893	4:30am	8:50am	7 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM				
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
				OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

**FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

# Business

## AIG loses big round in lawsuit against Greenberg

**NEW YORK (AP)**—American International Group Inc. lost a big round Tuesday in its court battle against former CEO Maurice “Hank” Greenberg.

In an advisory decision, a federal jury in Manhattan found that a private investment firm controlled by Greenberg did not have to reimburse AIG for \$4.3 billion in shares taken from a company retirement bonus fund in 2005, shortly after Greenberg was ousted as the insurer’s CEO.

U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff said he would issue a ruling in the case by the end of August.

“I give considerable weight to an advisory verdict, but in the end, it is something that the court has to determine for itself and I will make my own findings of fact and consultations of law,” Rakoff said.

The jury deliberated for about half a day before issuing its decision.



In this June 18, 2009 file photo, former American International Group (AIG) Inc. CEO Maurice “Hank” Greenberg enters Manhattan federal court in New York.

The New York-based insurance giant had accused Greenberg, through a company called Starr International Co. that he controls, of plundering an AIG retirement program composed of \$4.3 billion in stock. The questions raised during the civil trial boiled down to who controlled the fund, and what its purpose was.

AIG has received \$182.5 billion in federal aid since last fall, and the government has taken an 80 percent stake in the company. The company said it would use any proceeds from the trial to repay some of its loans from the government. The case was unrelated to the company’s recent financial crisis.

The insurer’s attorney, Theodore Wells, said only that he was “disappointed in the verdict.” He had asked the jury to recommend that AIG receive \$4.276 billion and 185 million AIG shares from Starr International.

Greenberg, 84, who testified during the first week of the trial that began June 15, was not present for the jury’s decision.

David Boies, Starr International’s attorney, said: “I think the quickness of the decision reflects the simplicity of the case. I would be hopeful that the judge would see it the same way the jury does.”

Liz Bowyer, spokeswoman for Starr International, said the company was “gratified by the jury’s quick and complete vindication of Starr International and Mr. Greenberg.”

AIG charged that Greenberg had improperly taken the stock and then sold it out of anger over his ouster from the company in 2005 amid investigations of accounting irregularities. Greenberg’s lawyers contended that he had the right to sell the shares because they were owned by Starr International.

## Tax on health benefits causing second thoughts

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Senate Democratic leaders rebelled Tuesday against a proposed tax on health insurance benefits, raising fresh doubts about the prospects for bipartisan legislation on President Barack Obama’s top domestic priority.

The discontent surfaced as the White House and Vice President Joe Biden readied a triumphant announcement for Wednesday that the nation’s hospitals had agreed to give up \$155 billion in future Medicare and Medicaid payments to help defray the cost of legislation Obama wants.

The pharmaceutical indus-

try agreed to a similar, though smaller, deal last month, giving a boost to the drive to overhaul the health care system. Officials said the White House and Sen. Max Baucus, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, would try next to win concessions from the American Medical Association and perhaps other groups representing physicians.

One day after lawmakers returned from a weeklong vacation, the White House and Democratic leadership made a conspicuous effort to assert control over the effort to

push health insurance legislation through committees and both houses of Congress over the next five weeks. While Obama has called for a bipartisan measure, a partisan bill written by and for Democrats is also a possibility, given the size of the party’s majorities in the House and Senate.

White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel met with House Democrats, underscoring the importance the president places on the issue. The message was “that we are potentially in a period of historic achievement, that health care

is the capstone that’s going to keep it all together,” said Rep. David Wu, D-Ore.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters he intends to sit down Wednesday with a small group of Republicans who have been involved in the bipartisan talks.

Nowhere were the challenges of passing legislation

more evident than in the Senate. There, several Democratic officials said the party’s leadership told Baucus, D-Mont., that they were unhappy with any tax on health care benefits—a key component of bipartisan negotiations—and expressed fears it could lose more votes on their side of the aisle than it gained among Republicans.

## Loan delinquencies continue to rise

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Consumer loan delinquencies edged up to another record high in the first quarter, according to data released Tuesday by the American Bankers Association.

A continued rise in unemployment has been the main culprit for the continued rise in delinquencies, the trade association said.

“The number one driver of delinquencies is job loss,” James Chessen, the ABA’s chief economist, said in a statement. “When people lose their jobs, they can’t pay their bills. Delinquencies won’t improve until companies start hiring again and we see a significant economic turnaround.”

The composite delinquency rate among eight types of closed-end installment loans rose to 3.23 percent in the January-March period, according

to the ABA’s consumer credit delinquency bulletin.

That is the highest recorded since the ABA began tracking the rate in the mid 1970s and tops the previous record of 3.22 percent set in the last quarter of 2008.

The ABA said credit card delinquencies also moved higher, rising to 4.75 percent in the latest quarter from 4.52 percent in the fourth quarter last year. The credit card delinquency rate nearly reached the record high of 4.81 percent set in the second quarter of 2005.

While the total number of delinquent credit card loans failed to hit a record, the percentage of all outstanding debt on cards hit a record high of 6.60 percent in the first quarter, the report said.

The ABA defines a delinquent payment as one that is more than 30 days past due.

## Judge denies motion to fast-track GM sale appeal

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A bankruptcy judge late Tuesday denied a motion by a group who claim they were injured as the result of defective General Motors products to directly appeal GM’s asset sale to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, and skip making their case to district court.

U.S. Judge Robert Gerber also denied a separate motion from a group with asbestos-related claims against the automaker to put the sale on hold pending a district court appeal. Gerber didn’t detail in court why he

was denying the motions, saying he would issue a written ruling later in the evening.

It’s unlikely that a higher court will take action on the appeals before GM’s sale closes. Objectors to GM’s sale still have until noon Thursday to file appeals. After that, the sale will be free to close. The Treasury Department, which is expected to provide about \$50 billion in aid to the automaker, has vowed to cut off funding to GM if the sale isn’t approved by Friday.

Late Sunday, Gerber ap-

proved Detroit-based GM’s plan to sell the bulk of its assets to a new government-controlled company as part of its plan to quickly emerge from Chapter 11 protection. The product liability and asbestos groups filed their appeals the next day.

Gerber’s Sunday ruling followed a three-day hearing that wrapped up last Thursday. GM and government officials had urged a quick approval of the sale, saying it was needed to keep the automaker from selling itself off piece by piece.

investors are looking to the latest slide as an unwelcome prediction that demand for energy and basic materials will remain weak as the recession lingers.

### Boeing to pay \$580M for 787 parts plant in SC

Boeing Co. will pay \$580 million for a plant that makes large sections of its 787 jetliner, an apparent effort to rein in supplier problems that have led to costly

delays of the next-generation aircraft and hurt the company’s credibility. The plant, owned by Vought Aircraft Industries, makes barrel-like sections of the 787’s fuselage that fit between its wings and tail and are composed primarily of lightweight materials. Deliveries of the 787 have been postponed by nearly two years partly because of problems with components made by suppliers and work that suppliers didn’t complete. Those hang-ups

are expected to cost the airplane maker billions of dollars in added expenses and penalties. (AP)

### Auto parts maker Lear Corp. files for Chapter 11

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Automotive parts supplier Lear Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday after receiving support from lenders and bondholders to reorganize its struggling business. The move had been expected from

the maker of vehicle seats and electronics, which missed an interest payment on its bond debt last week and revealed its intention to seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from its creditors. The Southfield, Mich.-based company made the filing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. It listed \$1.27 billion in assets and \$4.54 billion in liabilities. Subsidiaries outside the U.S. and Canada are not part of the filings, the company said.

**STOCK Portfolio**

**ASIAN MARKETS**

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 3,735.30 Down 32.20 (-0.94%)	<b>HONG KONG</b> 17,560.97 Down 301.30 (-1.69%)	<b>JAKARTA</b> 2,083.25 Up 48.24 (2.37%)
<b>TOKYO</b> 9,424.85 Down 222.94 (-2.31%)	<b>K. LUMPUR</b> 1,066.36 Up 0.53 (0.05%)	<b>MANILA</b> 2,461.99 Down 9.77 (-0.40%)
<b>SEOUL</b> 1,414.81 Down 19.39 (-1.35%)	<b>BANGKOK</b> 569.27 Down 14.21 (-2.44%)	<b>SINGAPORE</b> 2,245.95 Down 26.31 (-1.16%)

**LEADING INDICATORS**

**DOW**  
8,163.60  
-161.27

**NASDAQ**  
1,746.17  
-41.23

**S&P**  
881.03  
-17.69

**MONEY MARKET**

Australian Dollar	1.2546
British Pound	0.6142
Canadian Dollar	1.1600
Chinese Renminbi	6.8346
Euro	0.7156
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501
Indian Rupee	48.3450
Indonesian Rupiah	10,272.5000
Japanese Yen	95.3600
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5400
New Zealand Dollar	1.5724
Philippine Peso	48.1870
Singapore Dollar	1.4554
South Korean Won	1,268.7000
Swiss Franc	1.0851
Taiwan Dollar	32.9730
Thailand Baht	34.1200

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Slumping crude oil prices drag stock market lower

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Falling oil prices are becoming another sign of investors’ deflating hopes for a speedy economic recovery. Major stock indexes skidded 2 percent Tuesday as crude fell for the fifth straight day and the Dow Jones industrial average fell 161 points to its lowest close since late April. Lower oil prices can help the economy by reducing costs, but

# Nation

## Sotomayor critics step up rhetoric before hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservatives stepped up their criticism of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor on Tuesday, but it was unclear how far Senate Republicans were willing to go to create bumps in what appears to be a smooth road to confirmation for President Barack Obama's first high-court choice.

Even as the Senate's top Republican suggested that Sotomayor let racial bias cloud her rulings, he and other GOP senators refused to say whether they would accede to conservative activists' demands to try to delay a final vote to confirm her until September. At the same time, the National Rifle Association raised what it called "very serious concerns" about Sotomayor based on her stance on weapons rights, yet it stopped short of opposing her, citing its "respect for the confirmation process."

The fresh critiques of Sotomayor came as the American Bar Association, a national lawyers' group, rated her "well-qualified" to be a justice after its members conducted scores of confidential interviews with her colleagues and pored through her record and writings



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., speaks during a news conference with representatives from the nations leading law enforcement and criminal justice organizations in support of the nomination of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in Washington.

to assess her integrity, qualifications and temperament.

Democrats and civil rights leaders rushed to defend So-

tomayor against charges that she's an activist who would allow racial bias to interfere with her decisions.

The White House gave senators a lengthy briefing book on Sotomayor that highlights key rulings in areas includ-

ing criminal law, freedom of speech and religion, women's issues, gun and property rights, and immigration.

The 129-page document describes the judge in glowing terms, repeating often that she shows judicial restraint and is a moderate. It says she has a "record of judicial excellence and, for each case that comes before her, has narrowly applied the law to the facts of the case."

The Senate Judiciary Committee is to open hearings Monday on Sotomayor's nomination to replace Justice David Souter on the Supreme Court. If confirmed, she would be the first Hispanic to serve there.

The NRA—influential with Republicans and some conservative Democrats—said senators should question Sotomayor on her views on the Second Amendment and curbs on the right to bear arms, and threatened to oppose her if her answers were "hostile or evasive." In a letter to senators, Chris W. Cox, the group's executive director, said Sotomayor had been "dismissive" of the Second Amendment, particularly in an appeals court ruling that held it

only limits the federal government—not states.

Meanwhile, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the minority leader, said Sotomayor's federal appeals court ruling last year against white firefighters alleging reverse discrimination leaves the impression that she allows her agenda to affect her judgment and she favors certain groups.

"It is a troubling philosophy for any judge—let alone one nominated to our highest court—to convert empathy into favoritism for particular groups," McConnell said.

Sotomayor was part of an appeals panel that dismissed the firefighters' challenge to a decision by New Haven, Conn., to scrap a promotion test because too few minorities qualified. The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court last week.

McConnell said Sotomayor might have let her service with a civil rights group that represented Hispanics in job discrimination cases sway her decision. She held leadership roles on the board of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, now known as LatinoJustice PRLDEF, from 1980 to 1992.

## Police: SC killer should have been behind bars

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The South Carolina serial killer who terrorized a small community was well-known to authorities as a bully, so intimidating that a scared elderly man once refused to testify against him and extortion charges were thrown out.

The career criminal, Patrick Burris, had repeated run-ins with police for stealing and writing bad checks, and authorities said Tuesday they weren't surprised his crimes escalated. They said Burris, paroled in April after serving eight years in a North Carolina prison, should have never been released.

Burris, 41, shot five people to death in a 10-mile area of rural Gaffney in the span of six days last week. He was fatally shot Monday by officers investigating a burglary complaint at a home in Gastonia, N.C., 30 miles from where the killing spree started. Ballistics from a gun found with Burris linked him to the South Carolina slayings.

"He always had a violent streak," Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page said. "He was very intimidating and very threatening from his appearance: He was at least 6-5 and 250 pounds. You didn't want to mess with him."

## Federal Web sites knocked out by cyber attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—A widespread and unusually resilient computer attack that began July 4 knocked out the Web sites of several government agencies, including some that are responsible for fighting cyber crime, The Associated Press has learned.

The Treasury Department, Secret Service, Federal Trade Commission and Transportation Department Web sites were all down at varying points over the holiday weekend and into this week, according to officials inside and outside the government. Some of the sites were still experiencing problems Tuesday evening. Cyber attacks

on South Korea government and private sites also may be linked, officials there said.

U.S. officials refused to publicly discuss any details of the cyber attack, and would only generally acknowledge that it occurred. It was not clear whether other government sites also were attacked.

Others familiar with the U.S. outage, which is called a denial of service attack, said that the fact that the government Web sites were still being affected three days after it began signaled an unusually lengthy and sophisticated attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause they were not authorized to speak on the matter.

Web sites of major South Korean government agencies, banks and Internet sites also were paralyzed in a suspected cyber attack Tuesday. Ahn Jeong-eun, a spokeswoman at the Korea Information Security Agency, said the U.S. and South Korean attacks appeared to be linked.

The South Korean sites included the presidential Blue House, the Defense Ministry, the National Assembly, Shinhan Bank, Korea Exchange Bank and top Internet portal Naver. They went down or had access problems since late Tuesday, Ahn said.

## Palin returns to work, defends decision to resign

KOTZEBUE, Alaska (AP)—Gov. Sarah Palin returned to the spotlight Tuesday with an appearance in a remote Arctic village where she stood by her perplexing decision to resign just as she tries to elevate her national profile ahead of a possible 2012 presidential run.



Palin

Palin signed a bill in this small town 30 miles north of the Arctic circle that is intended to bolster law enforcement in Alaska villages. She was greeted with cheers by about 300 people and briefly took the floor to dance to the beat of Inupiat Eskimo drum-

mers. Many lingered to get their pictures taken with the popular Republican governor and former vice presidential candidate.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Palin defended her decision to step down after a year in which she has been bombarded with a series of ethics complaints and public records requests that have cost the state nearly \$2 million to investigate, according to a tally provided by the governor's office Tuesday.

"You would be amazed at how much time and resource my staff and I, the Department

of Law especially, spend on this every day," she said. "It is a waste. We are spending these millions of dollars not on teachers and troopers and roads or fish research and other things that are needed in Alaska."

Palin stunned the political world when she abruptly announced Friday that she would step down July 26. She spent the long holiday weekend fishing with her husband and kids and briefly attended an Independence Day parade. Her first official appearance was at the bill signing. She also gave several interviews while wearing waders from her family's fishing spot before flying to Kotzebue.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Gay marriage bill takes effect in nation's capital

WASHINGTON (AP)—A law recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries went into effect Tuesday in the nation's capital, and a D.C. councilman said he plans to follow up with a measure that would allow gay marriage ceremonies in the district. The bill was approved in a 12-1 vote by the D.C. Council in May. Congress, which has the final say over the city's laws, had 30 days to review the legislation. Since it took no action, the bill automatically became law. "I certainly believe that the fact that we got here is a great victory, that we survived the congressional layover period," said D.C. Council member David Catania, who is fine-tuning a bill that would allow gay marriages to be performed in Washington. He said he intends to introduce the measure between September and the end of the year.

### Conn. standoff ends with man taken in ambulance

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut man who held his ex-wife hostage for hours and then refused to leave their burning home has been taken away in an ambulance. The woman is out safely. Firefighters surrounding the burning home say Richard Shenkman was in custody and he was taken away Tuesday night. There's no immediate word from police or a description of Shenkman's condition.

### Soldier could face death penalty over Iraq slaying

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—An Army sergeant accused of slaying his superior and another U.S. soldier in Iraq will face a court-martial and could be sentenced to death if convicted, the military said Tuesday. Army prosecutors say Sgt. Joseph Bozicevich, 39, of Minneapolis shot his squad leader, Staff Sgt. Darris Dawson, and Sgt. Wesley Durbin on Sept. 14 at a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol base south of Baghdad. Witnesses have said Bozicevich opened fire on the soldiers when they tried to counsel him for poor performance. Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division based at Georgia's Fort Stewart, ordered a general court-martial for Bozicevich on charges of murder. His decision Tuesday was based on preliminary evidence heard in April at the accused soldier's Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury.

# Asia

## Myanmar rebuilding uneven a year after the cyclone

**KYON DA VILLAGE, Myanmar (AP)**—As the U.N. helicopter skimmed above the placid Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar's military junta was putting the final touches on its showcase village.

Throngs of people lined the muddy walkways of Kyon Da village, a relief camp erected in this cyclone-hit area, while others stayed in their homes—neat rows of small houses made out of dried

palm and matted bamboo.

The new houses on stilts replaced the plastic tents and stacks of supplies put on display for visitors a year earlier, after Cyclone Nargis devastated the delta in May 2008.

For last weekend's visit by U.N. officials, some villagers smiled, and their kids sported freshly starched and ironed white linen garments. Many of the women

and children wore Thanaka, a cosmetic used by Burmese women for 2,000 years—golden-colored tree bark that is ground, made into paint and used to draw circles on the cheeks and even their ears.

About 1,000 homes collapsed and more than 100 people died in Kyon Da when the cyclone struck.

The angry waters that swallowed 138,000 lives in the cy-

clone have receded. Seen from above, where there had been a monolith of shimmering water was now a patchwork of rice field and border, river and shoreline, muddy pond and gray cloud.

Gone were the endless stretches of flooded rice fields and islands of destroyed homes with a few people standing on the rooftops. It affected more than two million, leaving a

quarter-million homeless.

The biggest health threats remain HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, according to the International Organization for Migration, which began partnering with Myanmar's government in 2005. In the past year IOM-led medical teams treated 110,613 people in 858 of the affected villages.

Local medical officials in

Kyon Da Village began to explain to a reporter last Saturday how the clinics were all busy, with the village and the broader Irrawaddy Delta region suffering from a high number of respiratory infections.

But after government minders began listening in, the medical officials suddenly seemed to lose their ability to speak English. End of conversation.

## China president hurries home from G8 after rioting

**URUMQI, China (AP)**—Sobbing Muslim women scuffled with riot police, and Chinese men wielding steel pipes and meat cleavers rampaged through the streets as ethnic tensions worsened in China's oil-rich Xinjiang territory, prompting President Hu Jintao to cut short a G8 summit trip Wednesday.

The new violence in Xinjiang's capital erupted Tuesday only a few hours after the city's top officials told reporters the streets in Urumqi were returning to normal following a riot that killed 156 people Sunday. The officials said more than 1,000 suspects had been rounded up since the spasm of attacks by Muslim Uighurs against Han Chinese, the ethnic majority.

In a rare move, Hu cut short a trip to Italy to take part in a Group of Eight meeting later Wednesday to travel home to deal with the outbreak of violence, the Foreign Ministry said on its Web site.

The chaos returned Tuesday when hundreds of young Han men seeking revenge began gathering on sidewalks with kitchen knives, clubs, shovels and wooden poles. They spent most of the afternoon marching through the streets, smashing windows of Muslim restaurants and trying to push past police cordons protecting minority neighborhoods. Riot police successfully fought them back with volleys of tear gas and a massive show of force.

Uighurs have said this week's rioting was triggered by the June 25 deaths of Uighur factory workers killed in a brawl in the southern Chinese city of Shaoguan. State-run media have said two workers died, but many Uighurs believe more were killed and said the incident was an example of how little the government cared about them.

There was a heavy security presence in Urumqi on Wednesday morning after an overnight



Chinese paramilitary police form up on a square in Urumqi, western China's Xinjiang province, Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

curfew in the city of 2.3 million was lifted. Two helicopters flew over the city watching the scene.

The ugly scenes over the last

several days highlight how far away the Communist Party is from one of its top goals: Creating a "harmonious society." The

unrest was also an embarrassment for the Chinese leadership, which is getting ready to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Communist

rule and wants to show it has created a stable country.

But harmony has been hard to achieve in Xinjiang, a rugged region three times the size of Texas with deserts, mountains and the promise of huge oil and natural gas reserves. Xinjiang is also the homeland for 9 million Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gers), a Turkic-speaking group.

Many Uighurs believe the Han Chinese, who have flooded into the region in recent years, are trying to crowd them out. They often accuse the Han of prejudice and waging campaigns to restrict their religion and culture.

The Han Chinese allege the Uighurs are backward and ungrateful for all the economic development and modernization the Han have brought to Xinjiang. They also complain that the Uighurs' religion—a moderate form of Sunni Islam—keeps them from blending into Chinese society, which is officially communist and largely secular.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Malaysia opposition leader's sodomy trial delayed

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Malaysia's High Court on Wednesday postponed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial by at least one week after his main defense lawyer fell ill. The long-awaited trial had been scheduled to start Wednesday, but his attorneys said their top representative was hospitalized for dizzy spells. The court will determine a new date for the trial July 15. Anwar, 61, was charged last August with allegedly sodomizing a 23-year-old male former aide. He has denied the charge. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of sodomy, a crime in this Muslim-majority country.

#### Philippine bombings halt UN food distribution

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The U.N. says it is suspending food distribution for hundreds of thousands of people displaced by violence in the southern Philippines following a string of deadly bombings

blamed on Muslim rebels. Alghassim Wurie, acting director for the U.N. World Food Program in the Philippines, says the decision was made out of concern for the staff's security. A bomb blast in Cotabato city on Sunday killed six people and wounded dozens, followed by another attack in Iligan city on Tuesday that wounded three soldiers and about 10 civilians. The WFP has offices in both cities. The U.N. has provided food for 578,000 people affected by fighting between government troops and Muslim rebels since last August. About 348,000 are still displaced.

#### North Koreans pay respects to late founder

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—North Koreans paid respects Wednesday to their country's late founder on the 15th anniversary of his death, laying flowers and bowing reverently before a huge statue of Kim Il Sung. Broadcaster APTN showed footage of North Koreans bowing repeatedly amid solemn music outside the hilltop Mansudae

Assembly Hall in the North Korean capital. "The great leader, President Kim Il Sung, is always alive—not only in the hearts of our people, but also in the minds of people all over the world," said Hwang In San, a Pyongyang resident.

#### Marines push militants out of Afghan region

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan (AP)**—U.S. Marines trapped Taliban fighters in a residential compound and persuaded the insurgents to allow women and children to leave. The troops then moved in—only to discover that the militants had slipped out, dressed in women's burqa robes. The fighters, who may owe their lives to the new U.S. commander's emphasis on limiting civilian casualties, were among hundreds of militants who have fled the offensive the Marines launched last week in southern Helmand province. Marine officers say keeping the Taliban from returning so the Afghan government can establish a stable presence will be a bigger challenge.

## Indonesians vote in presidential election

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—Indonesians voted Wednesday in their emerging democracy's second direct presidential election, with the incumbent expected to win a single-round victory thanks to recent economic and political stability.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has won popular support on a campaign of anti-corruption and financial support for the poor. Opinion polls indicate that Yudhoyono, who won his first five-year term in 2004, will get the necessary 50 percent plus one vote to defeat two opponents and avoid a September runoff.

Polling booths opened across

Indonesia's three time zones, from Aceh in the west to remote Papua province in the far east, without any reports of incidents.

"I voted for SBY," said Francis Bokeyau, a 40-year-old elementary school teacher in Papua, referring to the president's initials. "People feel free of fear and peaceful under his leadership. Slowly the standard of living and the economy in Papua are improving."

Before dictator Suharto was ousted in 1998, Indonesia was under brutal authoritarian rule for decades, and until recently was wracked by secessionist battles and suicide bombings

by al-Qaida-funded Islamic militants. It suffered towering unemployment after the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98.

Today, the predominantly Muslim country of 235 million is enjoying a level of harmony its critics had said was impossible, with its economy growing at 4 percent a year amid a severe global downturn.

"We are optimistic our candidate will win in a single round based on recent poll results," Andi Mallarangeng, Yudhoyono's campaign spokesman, said on the eve of the election. People "want the continuation of stability in politics, security and economy."

## SKorean Web sites hit by suspected cyber attack

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Suspected cyber attacks paralyzed Web sites of major South Korean government agencies, banks and Internet sites in a barrage that appeared linked to similar attacks in the U.S., South Korean officials said Tuesday.

The sites of the presidential Blue House, the Defense Ministry, the National Assembly, Shinhan Bank, Korea Exchange Bank and top Internet portal Naver went down or had access

problems since late Tuesday, said Ahn Jeong-eun, a spokeswoman at Korea Information Security Agency.

The alleged attacks appeared to be linked to the knockout of service of Web sites of several government agencies in the United States, Ahn said.

The U.S. sites were hit by a widespread and unusually resilient computer attack that began July 4, The Associated Press has learned.

In the United States, the Treasury Department, Secret Service, Federal Trade Commission and Transportation Department Web sites were all down at varying points over the holiday weekend and into this week, according to officials inside and outside the government. Some of the sites were still experiencing problems Tuesday evening.

Some of the South Korea sites remained unstable or inaccessible on Wednesday morning.

## World

## Iran president declares new era for country

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)**—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday sought to put the turmoil over the disputed presidential elections behind him and declared on national television that the contests were clean, fair and marked the start of a new era.

His speech came as the country's top three reformist leaders sought to rekindle their opposition movement, demanding that ruling clerics end the heavy "security atmosphere" imposed after the elections and free those detained in the unrest, according to an opposition Web site.

It was Ahmadinejad's first national speech since the supreme leader declared the election results valid despite outcry from the other candidates and weeks of street protests claiming that the results were fraudulent.

"This is a new beginning for Iran ... we have entered a new era," the president said, explaining that the 85 percent turnout and overwhelming win had given his government a new legitimacy.

"It was the most clean and free election in the world," he said, adding that during the re-count "no fault was discovered. The whole nation understood this."



In this photo released by the official website of the Iranian President's office, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad delivers a speech in a live program on state TV, at the presidency in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

"This election has doubled the dignity of the Iranian nation," he said.

During the half hour speech, Iranians in many parts of the capital Tehran could be heard shouting from

their rooftops, "death to the dictator" and "God is great"—actions that have become a symbol of defiance since the elections.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein

Mousavi, who claims to have won the June 12 election, is struggling for a way to channel the widespread discon-

tent since the vote but which has since been shattered by the harsh crackdown by police, Revolutionary Guards and Basij militia.

Mousavi hinted on Monday that he may move away from the tactic of protests and create a political party to work in what he called "a legal framework." Late Monday, he met with the other top stars of the reform movement—former president Mohammad Khatami and Mahdi Karroubi, another election candidate—in a show of unity.

The three warned Iran's clerical leadership that if the security crackdown continues, it "will only lead to radicalization of political activities," Mousavi's Web site reported on Tuesday.

But it is not clear how much margin the opposition will have for political action. Many of the top reform figures—including Khatami's former vice president and one-time members of his Cabinet—are in detention and could face charges of fomenting riots. Earlier this week, the head of the Revolutionary Guards warned that the elite force would take a major role in defending the country's system of clerical rule.

## Pope proposes new financial order guided by ethics

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI called Tuesday for a new world financial order guided by ethics and the search for the common good, denouncing the profit-at-all-cost mentality blamed for bringing about the global financial meltdown.

In the third encyclical of his pontificate, Benedict pressed for reform of the United Nations and international economic and financial institutions to give poorer countries more of a say in international policy.

"There is urgent need (for) a true world political authority" that can manage the global economy, guarantee the environment is protected, ensure world peace and bring about food security for the poor, he wrote.

The document "Charity in Truth," was in the works for two years, and its publication was repeatedly delayed to incorporate the fallout from the crisis. It was released a day before leaders of the Group of Eight indus-



**Pope Benedict XVI**

trialized nations meet to coordinate efforts to deal with the global meltdown, signaling a clear Vatican bid to prod leaders for a financially respon-

sible future and what it considers a more socially just society.

"The economy needs ethics in order to function correctly—not any ethics, but an ethics which is people centered," Benedict wrote.

The German-born Benedict, 82, has spoken out frequently about the impact of the crisis on the poor, particularly in Africa, which he visited earlier this year. But the 144-page encyclical, one of the most authoritative documents a pope can issue, marked a new level of church teaching by linking the Vatican's long-standing social doctrine on caring for the poor with current events.

While acknowledging that the globalized economy has "lifted billions of people out of misery," Benedict accused the unbridled growth of recent years of causing unprecedented problems as well, citing mass migration flows, environmental degradation and a complete loss of trust in the world market.

## Zelaya hometown provides look at divided Honduras

**LEPAGUARE, Honduras (AP)**—Luis Perez voted for Honduran President Manuel Zelaya in 2005. Now, he wishes he hadn't.

The 46-year-old agricultural engineer would seem like a surefire supporter. He lives just down the road from Zelaya's family ranch in this corn-growing region in the eastern province of Olancho. But he thought his neighbor was taking the country in a dangerous direction.

"The people of Honduras are not comfortable with the extreme left. Even the poor only want to see it go so far," Perez said. "People like Mel. They also are afraid of him."

Zelaya—known as "Mel" to friend and foe alike—was forced from his presidential home in Tegucigalpa by

the military at gunpoint and flown into exile June 28. The Organization of American States, the United Nations and heads of state worldwide have demanded that Honduras' interim government reinstate the democratically elected leader, who only had six months left on his term.

What's clear-cut for the international community is not so simple for Hondurans, who are split on the question of whether Zelaya should return.

"There are a lot of people who support him but there are a lot of people who are against him," said Julio Lazo, a police officer manning a roadblock set up near the Zelaya ranch.

Lepaguaré, where dogs nap under dusty mango trees and roads are crowded with more cows and horses

than cars, reflects Hondurans' complicated world view.

Though it was ruled by military strongmen for much of the last century, Honduras did not see the kind of brutality carried out by dictators in neighboring Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The country had a peaceful transition to civilian rule, adopting a Democratic constitution in 1982 even as its neighbors were embroiled in bloody civil wars.

Olancho, which borders Nicaragua, served as a key staging area for U.S.-backed contras fighting the leftist Sandinista government in the 1980s. One of the country's most infamous killings of leftists, including a U.S. priest, occurred on the Zelaya family ranch in 1975.

## New London memorial marks 4 years since attacks

**LONDON (AP)**—Families of terrorist victims joined royalty and lawmakers Tuesday to unveil a memorial of 52 steel pillars in a London park—one for each victim of the July 7, 2005, attacks on the city's transit system.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, London Mayor Boris Johnson and the Prince of Wales and his wife the Duchess of Cornwall attended the memorial service along with the bereaved. The stainless steel columns stand 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) tall in central London's Hyde Park.

"I believe the date of the London bombings is etched vividly on all our minds, as a brutal intrusion into the lives of thousands of people,"

Prince Charles told those gathered for the memorial.

Some relatives of those who died left single white or red roses next to a memorial plaque, while the names of all those killed were read aloud.

Cathy Johnson, whose husband Adrian Johnson was killed, attended with her two children. "I think the designers have been really careful to accommodate everybody's needs. I think it's very fitting," she said of the memorial.

Marc Lambert, a 46-year-old art consultant who works close to the park, carried a large bouquet of roses to the memorial service. He said he'd left flowers at the bomb sites each year since the attacks.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Police arrest 36 at G-8 protest in Rome

**ROME (AP)**—Police arrested 36 activists Tuesday after clashes at a Rome demonstration against this week's Group of Eight summit in central Italy. Protesters with covered faces and helmets blocked roads and set fire to garbage bins and tires near one of the capital's universities. Of the 36 people taken in for questioning, 11 were detained on various charges, including a citizen each from France, Poland and Germany, said police spokesman Vittorio Caggiano. He said the rest would be released later Tuesday. Separately, police in the city of L'Aquila seized a baseball bat and metal bars from the car of five French protesters. They were not arrested.

## Commission: Bar Liberian president from office

**MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)**—Liberia's truth and reconciliation commission has recommended barring President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and 50 other high-profile figures from public office for three decades for supporting armed groups in the country's civil wars. If the

legislature approves the recommendations and they become law before the 2011 presidential poll, it would block the chance of a second term for Sirleaf. Sirleaf, 70, acknowledged before the commission in February that she gave up to \$10,000 to a rebel group headed by Charles Taylor, viewed by many as the chief architect of Liberia's back-to-back civil wars that lasted from 1989 to 2003.

## Dimwitted thieves steal fake cell phones in Mexico

**MORELIA, Mexico (AP)**—Call it the case of the dead cells—both telephones and the ones in the brain. Employees at a Telefonica Movistar cell-phone store in Morelia, Mexico say they arrived Tuesday morning to find that the store had been broken into. An examination of the shop revealed the only items missing were hollow replica phones for display that are completely useless for making calls. Employees say the clueless thieves overlooked real cell phones and cash in another part of the shop. Store owners nonetheless reported the theft to local police, who are investigating.

# Environment

## Coral Reef Initiative interns tell their stories

This summer, the *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday Environment Page will feature articles written by students participating in the 2009 Coral Reef Initiative Internship Program at Coastal Resources Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Environmental Quality.

In their own words, the interns will share the experiences they have had and

the skills they have gained from working in fields ranging from marine biology to outreach and education.

The program has paired the students—more than a dozen this year—with mentors experienced in their respective careers. Each intern will work

on a variety of projects, including a number of community events and marine monitoring activities, through August.

For seven years, the program has provided opportunities for CNMI students to gain valuable work experience while learning about

efforts underway to protect and conserve our precious natural resources.

By bringing students into the agencies and supporting hands-on and in the field experiences, the program encourages students to pursue studies and careers in the conservation field. This year, DEQ and CRM welcomed back three summer internship alumni to their staff: Janice Castro, DEQ,

Rodney Camacho, CRM, and David Benevente, CRM. These recent college graduates bring with them a commitment to the CNMI and our precious natural resources.

For more information on summer internship opportunities, contact Brooke Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management Office, 664-8320 or [brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp](mailto:brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp).

### CONTACT INFO

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## I'm on a boat!

By WEN-HUI YE  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

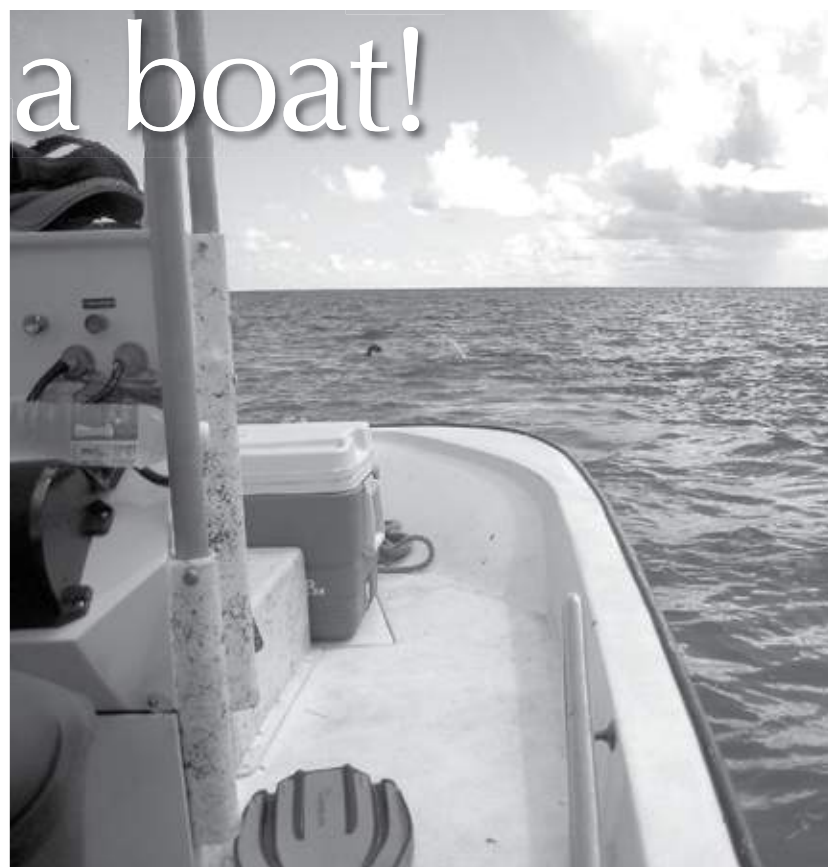
Hello everybody! My name is Wen-Hui Ye. I was born and raised on the beautiful island of Saipan. I am 18 years old and a student at the University of California, Berkeley. Go Bears! My major is undeclared, but I plan to apply to the Haas School of Business at Berkeley as a business major in my sophomore year. In the future, I hope to receive my bachelor's degree at Berkeley and work in the business and conservation fields. Currently, I am employed as an intern at the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the fisheries research section. My mentor is fisheries advisor/biologist, Mike Trianni.

I heard about this internship from Brooke Nevitt, education and outreach coordinator at Coastal Resource Management. Already interested in and involved with sustainability and conservation activities at Berkeley, I thought this internship would be a great way to expand and broaden on my experience in the conservation field from a different perspective.

Although I have just started my internship two weeks ago, I have already learned very much as a fisheries intern. With the plethora of ongoing projects at DFW, such as outreach programs and oceanographic surveys, there was never a moment that I was not learning about or participating in a program or project.

One of the very first activities I was involved in was an outreach program for high school students called the "Saipan Summer Course – Marine Fisheries and Resources" that started in the summer of 2008. The summer course is sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and supported by the coral reef conservation program under the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration. The main purpose of the program is to educate high school students in marine science, fisheries research techniques, resource management methods, fishing techniques, etc., in hopes of fostering interest in marine sciences and biology. All high school students, both public and private, are welcome to join. The class is free and two weeks long. While DFW is not the creator of the summer course, it plays a major role in the program. For more information on the summer course, contact Richard B. Seman, the course coordinator, at [marfishmag@gmail.com](mailto:marfishmag@gmail.com).

As a part of the program, DFW in-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DFW conducts lagoon surveys to obtain biomass estimates of food resources within the lagoon. A biomass assessment is basically a count of all resources within a study site.

vited the students over for the day to learn about marine science and management, which included fish research techniques, resource management techniques, and even research fieldwork. The morning started with a presentation on the research of fish life history. After a brief explanation on how DFW studies fish, the professionals at DFW taught the students firsthand how to dissect a fish to determine gender, how to retrieve the ear bones to determine age, as well as how all the data collected from the fish is processed. In the afternoon, there were presentations on Fish Aggregation Devices and invasive species prevention. To round out the learning experience, DFW also took the students to a freshwater site to demonstrate how fish samples are gathered using dip nets and traps. The students were each given a turn at catching some specimens with a dip net. The whole day was a big learning experience for not only the students, but me as well. I not only learned research techniques, resource management methods, etc., but I also learned how to organize outreach and education programs as well as the importance of outreach to the younger generation.

Aside from outreach activities, I have also been involved in research activities such as lagoon surveys. DFW conducts lagoon surveys to obtain biomass estimates of food resources within the lagoon. A biomass

assessment is basically a count of all resources within a study site. DFW aims to perform these surveys a few times each month depending on what other projects are in progress. The lagoon survey that I participated was led by DFW biologist Mike Tenorio and performed with the aid of three fishery technicians.

Before this lagoon survey, I have never gone into the ocean on a 14-foot boat. I had only been on larger boats that were meant for transportation. Not only have I never been on such a boat, I have also never participated in a marine biological study outside of a classroom setting. It was a day of firsts for me. How fast would the boat go? How do they record data underwater? What do we do if a shark appears? These were just some of the questions floating around in my head as we were preparing supplies for the survey.

After preparing the supplies, we all got into the boat and sped off to our first survey site. The survey sites are chosen randomly from a list generated by the geographic information systems. For each site, the DFW survey team goes through the same systematic procedure. They first anchor the boat down and prepare for the snorkel dive. The survey equipment is simple: snorkels, fins, clipboards, and a line and weight. Site information such as site identification number, habitat identification number, depth, date, visibility, and time is entered on the boat. A tech-

nician lays down a 25-meter line with weights which forms the transect line, a 25x5 meter area. Then the technician conducts a separate survey a few meters away from the belt transect. The surveyor performs a Stationary Point Count (SPC) of food fish larger than 25cm, within a 10-meter radius area for 10 minutes. The next surveyor then swims along the transect line and observes all food fish within the transect area for the same amount of time. Then, the last person identifies and counts all the sea cucumbers along the transect line. All the information gathered is recorded onto a

sheet of waterproof paper underwater and is processed at a later date back at the fisheries research office.

Although this internship is far from over, I am grateful to have already learned and experienced so much. From working with outreach programs to participating in lagoon surveys, I have learned a great deal about the conservation field. I hope this internship program continues every summer to provide students with rare opportunities to learn about the conservation field because the knowledge and experience this internship has given me is truly priceless.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wen-Hui Ye goes down for a dive.

## Out of my comfort zone

By CARMILYNN OGUMORO  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai and Tiroow! My name is Carmilynn Ogumoro. This summer, I am an intern at the Coastal Resources Management Office doing Education and Outreach under Brooke Nevitt, CRMO's Education and Outreach Coordinator. I am a junior attending Boise State University in Idaho and graduated in 2006 from Mount Carmel High School. I am currently pursuing my undergraduate degree in the field of Social Work. I enjoy working with children, the elderly, and other members of society considered vulnerable. I see myself as an advocate for the rights of these individuals. Looking to eventually enter the field of social work, my experience at CRM has given me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone, to be able to reach out to the youth and advocate for a healthier environment. With the knowledge I am gaining through this experience with CRMO, I am better equipped to educate children who may be unaware of the wonderful and diverse natural environment found in the CNMI.

During my internship, I have been able to become part of the reef flat surveys that are usually held every

other Friday. A reef flat survey is when the Marine Monitoring Team of CRMO heads out to a designated beach where they conduct surveys on marine life such as seaweed, sea cucumbers, and coral cover. Later on in the summer I will also be involved with coordinating a summer camp for teachers and students.

The summer internship began with the weeklong 26<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Environmental Conference that was held at the Saipan World Resort. The workshop included environmental officials from various Pacific Islands as well as the U.S. The week-long conference helped broaden my knowledge of various cost-effective ways that can save energy and keep our environment healthy. During this conference, I also learned that while it can be costly to keep the environment clean and healthy, there are always inexpensive solutions—any individual can make a positive change and impact in our community!

If you would like to learn more about summer internship opportunities, please feel free to contact Brooke Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management Office, 664-8320 or [brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp](mailto:brooke.nevitt@crm.gov.mp).

## Life &amp; Style

## Poignant service says goodbye to MJ, the man

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY  
AP MUSIC WRITER

Michael Jackson was an entertainment phenomenon both triumphant and troubled, a dazzling performer who transcended barriers, transformed the music world and transfixed fans and non-fans alike in every corner of the Earth.

But Tuesday's memorial was not for that Michael Jackson.

Instead, those closest to the legend gave the world a glimpse of Michael Jackson the man.

In a poignant and serene service, the portrait they painted was of a human just as remarkable, making his loss doubly painful to bear for those who truly loved him.

"I just wanted to say ... ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine. And I just wanted to say I love him—so much," said Jackson's 11-year-old daughter, Paris-Michael, before dissolving into tears and falling into the embrace of her aunt Janet.

It was a deeply emotional moment, the most profound part of a memorial that accomplished what Jackson could not in life: humanizing a man who for so long had seemed like a caricature.

How could someone who moved like he moved, sang like he sang, and reached musical heights no person has ever touched be as human as the rest of us? How could a man who threw a wedding for Elizabeth Taylor, had a chimpanzee as a companion, and wore masks to cover his surgically altered face be any part normal?

How can a man who admitted he shared his bed with boys—though he maintained it was never sexual, as others suggested—be a decent man, closer to saintly than devilish?

It took those closest to him, from his brother Marlon to his old friend actress Brooke Shields, to explain Michael Jackson to those who saw him as a talented freak—an image that deeply pained Jackson.

So while Motown founder Berry Gordy talked about the child prodigy he signed at age 10, and pronounced him not just the King of Pop, but "the greatest entertainer who ever lived," he also talked about the little kid who played catcher during family softball games against the Gordys, who cracked jokes and frolicked in the pool. Former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson talked about the perfectionist who made him achieve higher heights as a basketball player, but also told of sitting around and eating KFC at his home. And Shields talked about a friendship in which laughter was central to it all.

"We had a bond, and maybe it was because we both understood what it was like to be in the spotlight from a very, very young age," Shields said, fighting back tears. "Both of us needed to be adults very early, but when we were together, we were two little kids having fun. ... M.J.'s laugh was the sweetest and purest of anyone I've known."

For Jackson's family and the organizers of the memorial, it was a successful rehabilitation of the image of a super-



Michael Jackson's casket is brought out during the Jackson public memorial service held at Staples Center on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 in Los Angeles.

## Jackson's kids emerge from behind the veil

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—For all the hasty preparations, hand-wringing over security, breathless media competition to scoop details and soul-wrenching performances, the essence of Michael Jackson's memorial service came down to 20 poignant, powerful seconds: the moment when 11-year-old Paris-Michael Jackson inched up to the microphone and, in a statement no one saw coming, referred to the late pop superstar as "Daddy."

It was a remarkably humanizing moment. Then again, it was remarkable just to see Jackson's three children in public to begin with.

A fiercely protective father, Jackson rarely brought his brood out into public, covering their faces in veils and party masks to protect their identity when he did.

Now here they were, unveiled, before an audience of thousands at Staples Center and millions more around the globe. Starting out seated in the front row, the three youngest Jacksons eventually joined the rest family onstage as the two-hour service wound to a close.

Dressed in the same dark suits and yellow ties as the rest of the Jackson men, 12-year-old Michael Joseph Jr., known as Prince Michael, chewed gum and toted the memorial service program; 7-year-old Prince Michael II, known as Blanket, held his program and clutched a Michael Jackson doll.

Paris, wearing a black dress with white trim, turned a small patent-leather purse over in her hands as other family members spoke. And then a dramatic hush fell over the

crowd as family members whispered that the little girl, whose lifetime of public exposure amounted to a small handful of paparazzi photographs, Paris-Michael wanted to say something.

She furtively emerged from the tight circle of family members, who rushed to lower the microphone to her level. And with her uncle Randy on one side and aunt Janet on the other, Jackson's little girl stood center stage.

"I just wanted to say," Paris began weakly.



Michael Jackson's daughter Paris Michael Katherine, center, is surrounded by family members at a memorial service for her father at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, on Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

"Speak up, sweetheart, speak up," Janet encouraged, sweeping the girl's long hair back. "And get close."

Paris put one hand behind her neck, another on the microphone, and began again.

"Ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine," she said, her tiny voice cracking.

Rebbie and Marlon Jackson moved in closer to comfort their niece. She shut her eyes tight.

Then she wrapped her hands—little fingernails painted red—around the microphone and fought back tears as she continued: "And I just wanted to say I love him—so much."

She collapsed in tears into her aunt's arms.

"It's OK, baby. It's OK," Janet Jackson said as she held Paris close. Prince joined in on the hug.

And all at once, Jackson wasn't the larger-than-life King of Pop, or Wacko Jacko the tabloid freak. He was a doting father who had left three adoring young children behind.

He was "Daddy."

centric behavior and what seemed to be one bad career move after another.

Only true Jackson fans, a number that seemed to be dwindling year after year, seemed to remember the man who dazzled us with "Thriller," made us swoon with delight with infectious grooves like "Rock With You" and "Remember the Time," and conversed with presidents, kings and queens.

Tuesday's memorial reminded us of that Michael Jackson, too. The universally revered and admired former South African President, Nelson Mandela, offered words of condolences and love for Jackson in a statement read by Motown legend Smokey Robinson.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, talked about how Jackson held court with African leaders in his bid to help slow the spread of AIDS there.

And poet Maya Angelou, who was also represented by her words instead of her presence, offered a loving tribute for the entertainer in remarks read by Queen Latifah.

"He took a pose on his toes for all of us," Angelou wrote, remarking on his worldwide influence from "Birmingham, Alabama, to Birmingham, England."

For an entertainer known for his amazing music, song took a backseat to sentiment at the service. But when it was used, it was to great effect. His very biggest hits were not part of the program.

Instead, what we heard were the songs that reinforced Jackson outside of entertainment. Longtime friend Stevie Wonder—who summarized the thoughts of many when he said, "This is a moment I wished I didn't live to see"—sang his own "Never Dreamed You'd Leave In Summer," originally intended as a bitter breakup song but repurposed as a sad goodbye.

Lionel Richie, Jackson's collaborator on the anthem "We Are the World," sang a gospel classic, "Jesus is Love." Another gospel hymn heralded the arrival of Jackson's casket when a choir sang the lines, "Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King."

Two of Jackson's songs underscored his humanitarian side—the closing numbers, "We Are the World" and the anthem for his charity, "Heal the World."

Usher's heartbreaking rendition of "Gone Too Soon," which Jackson wrote as a memorial for Ryan White, one of the early public faces of AIDS, captured the pain not only of his fans and friends, but of his family, as the Jackson brothers came together and gripped a sobbing Usher in their arms afterward.

And Jermaine Jackson's version of Charlie Chaplin's "Smile," which Michael Jackson had often used as a metaphor for his own tragic life, was a fitting epitaph for his brother.

But perhaps no one lifted up the image of Jackson more than the Rev. Al Sharpton, in a rousing, church-like sermon that took Michael Jackson back from the tabloid headlines. Sharpton, a civil rights activist, looked at Jackson's children and declared: "Your daddy wasn't strange—what he had to deal with was strange."

star who had been derided for so long. The words "sweet" and "pure" had

rarely been used to describe Jackson in the last two decades of his life, marked

by allegations of child abuse, an ever-changing face, multiple lawsuits, ec-

# Grateful Jackson fans moved by memorial service

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Fans who were lucky enough to score tickets to Michael Jackson's memorial service Tuesday knew they were witnessing history. "It was amazing," said 35-year-old Gregory Vernon, who wore sunglasses as he walked solemnly out of Staples Center after the service. "We'll probably never see anything like it again."

Two stay-at-home moms from Arizona left their kids with their husbands and caught a last-minute flight to attend the memorial.

"Love him or hate him, this is the experience of a lifetime," said 38-year-old Carly Stoltenberg of Gilbert, Ariz. "This brought back his humanness."

Her friend Katey McPhearson said the service, like the man it memorialized, "totally transcended all races, all cultures, all ages."

Erma Trinidad of Irvine, Calif., was thrilled to be among the fans outside Staples, but she felt guilty for calling in sick to her job as a defense contractor.

"This is the most unprofessional I've ever been," said the 34-year-old Jackson fan.

Clarisse Que was feeling guilty, too. Instead of inviting her father to the memorial, she took a friend, Trinidad.

"I'm DVR-ing it for my dad," Que said.

Fans gathered outside Staples beforehand to snap photos of the scene, the giant sympathy card for Jackson and a tribute in red and white roses that read, "We love you Michael."

Guests were mostly orderly as they moved through metal detectors. Each was handed a program, submitted to a check of their purses or packages and shuffled into the giant arena. Once inside, audience members mostly remained seated and sedate.

But they also cheered the arrival of celebrities such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Kobe Bryant. Once the ceremony began, they stood and sang along with Mariah Carey and Trey Lorenz, who reprised their



Jennifer Hudson performs at the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, on Tuesday July 7, 2009.

cover of the Jackson 5's "I'll Be There," and gave a standing ovation to Stevie Wonder, who sang George Michael's "They Won't Go When I Go."

The ceremony had all the trappings of any big Hollywood show, relying on Grammy producer Ken Ehrlich and veteran stage manager Valdez Flagg, who works on the Oscars and Grammys.

But plenty of people without tickets to enjoy the spectacle still made the pilgrimage downtown. Fans crowded the corner just outside the police perimeter, where more than 20 uniformed officers kept watch. Dozens of street vendors also were in the mix, selling but-

tons, posters, T-shirts, bouquets and glittery gloves.

"Show your love, get a glove," a woman shouted, carrying a cardboard box of spangled white gloves.

Single mom Tamanika Hines made her own Jackson tribute T-shirt and asked her son's father to watch the baby so she could come to the memorial. Her friend, Sharon Tinsley, took the day off from her day care job to attend.

"Everyone knows this is my Michael Jackson day," she said.

Andrea Hernandez of Los Angeles said she was looking forward to seeing photos of Jackson at the memorial: "I like how he looked when he was younger."

## Jackson fans watch memorial outside Neverland

**LOS OLIVOS, California (AP)**—The skies were brilliant blue, the breezes gentle and the television reception excellent. Dozens of fans watched Michael Jackson's public memorial service from the road in front of the pop star's Neverland Ranch.

Huddled around a wide screen television next to a CBS tent, fans clapped and cried along with mourners far away at Tuesday's downtown Los Angeles service.

Stephanie Cook and her boyfriend flew in from Georgia, hoping to be part of a memorial if it had been held at Jackson's ranch in Santa Barbara County's wine country.

The couple did some sightseeing in Los Angeles on Monday, visiting several Jackson land-

marks, then headed the 130 miles (210 kilometers) northwest back to Neverland to be with fellow fans during the public memorial.

Cook said she was happy and thankful she didn't have to watch the service on her cell phone.

"It was emotional, very emotional, especially when Paris got up to speak, that was toughest for me," Cook said, referring to brief remarks by Jackson's 11-year-old daughter.

Throughout the service, Cook used her sequin-gloved hand to snap photos of the 60-inch (152-centimeter) television screen.

After the service ended, the TV truck lowered its satellite antenna and sheriff's deputies asked all the T-shirt vendors to pack up their tents and move on.

In the days since Jackson's June 25 death, thousands have come by the ranch, but it was down to dozens Tuesday afternoon, the stage left to a handful of die-hard fans reluctant to leave the place Jackson called home during his heyday.

They stood by what was left—piles of balloons, flowers, candles, stuffed animals, notes, photos and one primitive painting of Jackson wearing nothing but a loincloth and angel wings.

The huge gates to Neverland had mammoth, matching red rose wreaths. One side had a banner saying "Neverland," the other read, "Once upon a time."

And then there was the music drifting from the other side of the gates. Michael Jackson music.

## LA could cover costs for Jackson memorial service

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Deficit-ridden Los Angeles may break even on the bill for the cost of police and other public servants on duty for Michael Jackson's memorial service, even though the city asked the singer's fans to help defray the costs, an economist said Tuesday.

A Web site was posted Tuesday seeking donations to cover the costs, estimated at between \$1.5 million and \$4 million, according to Matt Szabo, a spokesman for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

The Web page reads: "Help the City of Angels provide the extraordinary public safety resources required to give Michael the safe, orderly and respectful memorial he deserves." The site is linked to a PayPal account where donors can make tax-deductible contributions.

But Jack Kyser, founding economist of the Kyser Center for Economic Research of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation,

estimates the city could rake in \$4 million from the event, thanks to the throng of media and other visitors who stayed at hotels, ate at restaurants and shopped in Los Angeles.

Kyser believes the city also got a major image boost because the memorial service went off without any major problems.

"This thing went off very smoothly," Kyser said. "I think you had some good exposure for downtown and for the entire city."

Thousands of police officers and other city workers were enlisted to provide security and logistical support for Jackson's private service at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills and the public memorial at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Some city officials have expressed concern about the cost, given the city's estimated \$530 million deficit.

## Death and Funeral Announcement



### CARLA MAE PANGELINAN BENAVENTE "Mae"

**Born to Eternal Life: August 16, 1974  
Called to Eternal Life: June 29, 2009**

**of Afetnas, Saipan was called eternal home by our Lord at the age of 34.**

#### Predeceased by:

Maternal Uncle (†Pedro DLC. Pangelinan)  
Maternal Aunt (†Agnes P. Deleon Guerrero)  
Maternal Uncle (†Norbert DLC. Pangelinan)  
Maternal Uncle (†Francisco R. Pangelinan)  
Paternal Grandparents (†Fernando M. & †Faustina S. Benavente)  
Paternal Uncle (†Juan S. Benavente)  
Paternal Aunt (†Lydia B. Fujihira)  
Paternal Uncle (†George S. Benavente)  
Maternal Cousin (†Emery Joseph I. Pangelinan)  
Mother-in-Law (†Maria T. Palacios)

#### Survived by:

**Parents:** Rufina C. Pangelinan & Francisco A. Ada  
**Common Law:** Lenard A. Bass Jr.  
**Children:** Edward Anthony, Regina Judith, Maeyesha, & Christopher Jay  
**Maternal Grandparents:** Hilario R. & Maxima DLC. Pangelinan  
**Godparents:** James & Susana R. Cabrera  
Eleuterio & Linda Palacios  
**Brothers/Sister/Spouse & Children:** Dennis John Ngeskabei & Linda Lizama (Daisy Ann & Peter Anthony)  
Anthony & Jolene Benavente (Gino Anthony & Jaden Anthony)

Lorna & Eddie Sablan (Lorie Cassandra, Donald John, Eddie Jr., & Kaitlin)  
Fernando & Meena Benavente (Fernando Antoine, Nathan Marquel, Aiden Joshua, & Amiah Grey)  
JiAnn Kim

#### Maternal Uncles & Aunts:

Juan D. Dela Cruz  
†Pedro DLC & Judith Pangelinan  
Henry DLC. & Matilde Pangelinan & Family  
†Agnes P. DLGuerrero & Francisco C. DLGuerrero & Family  
Martin DLC. & Frances Pangelinan & Family  
Oscar DLC. & Frannie Pangelinan & Family  
Rebecca P. & John Santos & Family  
Brenda P. & Allen Manibusan & Family  
Laurion DLC. & Vera Pangelinan & Family

#### Family of Francisco A. Ada:

\*Gilbert Castro Ada & Faustina Aldan Ada  
Gilbert Aldan Ada, Jr. & Maryann Tenorio Ada & Family  
Francisco S. Ada (Koko) / Step-Brother  
James Aldan Ada & Elizabeth Sablan Ada & Family  
Daniel Aldan Ada  
Luciano Aldan Ada & Edward T. Cabrera & Family  
Abelena Aldan Ada & Jerome Tenorio Attao & Family

#### Special Aunts:

Esther A. & Joaquin Guerrero & Family  
Maria & John Ligmaw & Family

#### Paternal Uncles & Aunts:

Juan S. Benavente & Family  
Rita S. Benavente & Family  
Frances S. Benavente & Family  
Juanita B. & Jose Angel & Family  
Carmen B. & Ramon Crisostimo & Family  
†Lydia B. Fujihira & Family  
Guillermo S. & Arsenia Benavente & Family  
Delia B. & Roque Muna  
†George B. & Ana Benavente & Family  
Alicia S. Benavente & Family  
Lillian B. & Carlos Diaz & Family

Additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Holy Mass is being offered nightly at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm.

On Monday, July 13, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home, Oleai Beach Road, to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Services will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yuus Ma'ase,  
**Ginen I Familia**

# International idol, Jackson mourned around globe

JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**LONDON (AP)**—Fans in Asia stayed awake into the wee hours, bars across Europe held Michael Jackson theme nights and television stations from Sydney to Paris cleared their schedules Tuesday to broadcast the King of Pop's star-studded memorial service from Los Angeles.

Fans mourned the singer and celebrated his life along with the thousands attending the U.S. event, where entertainers including Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Usher, Lionel Richie paid tribute to Jackson, who died June 25. The 12-year-old Welsh schoolboy Shaheen Jafargholi, who wowed TV audiences earlier this year with the Jackson 5 song "Who's Loving You" on "Britain's Got Talent" got a

standing ovation after he sang the same song to the stadium.

In London, dozens of fans sheltered under umbrellas against the rain as they watched the event on a big screen outside the O2 Arena, where Jackson was to have performed 50 comeback shows starting next week. Many more stayed dry at home after the BBC announced it would cancel scheduled programming and show the ceremony live.

"His whole life was a global broadcast in a way, so I suppose it's fitting that his death also is," said barista Robert Anderson, 26, in London.

Crowds gathered outside Harlem's Apollo Theater in New York—where the Jackson 5 won "Amateur Night" in 1967—and in Detroit, where his career was launched with Motown Records.

"I think he was somebody who really did change the style of music," said Jonathan Contreras, a 23-year-old college student from Westland, Michigan. "They call him the King of Pop. I call him the King of Music."

Fans gathered at Berlin's O2 World arena and at a bar just off Paris' Champs-Elysees, where about 20 people, many dressed in black, Jackson-style hats or white gloves, watched the ceremony.

"I didn't want to experience this moment alone," said Marie-Anne Le Saux, 25, an insurance company employee who helped organize the ceremony.

In Santiago, Chile, national police band played "We Are the World" during the traditional guard change at the presidential palace La Moneda, as hundreds watched.



Michael Jackson fans watch the moment when his daughter Paris-Michael Katherine, center, is comforted by family members at his memorial, broadcast live from Los Angeles on a TV screen outside the O2 arena in southeast London, Tuesday, July 7, 2009, where he was scheduled to play 50 shows from July 2009 on.

## Jackson's death certificate leaves cause unknown

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Michael Jackson's death certificate has been released without a listed cause of death and a coroner said investigators are still testing the singer's brain.

Public health officials issued the death certificate on Tuesday, the same day public and private memorials were held in Los Angeles. The cause of death is listed as "deferred."

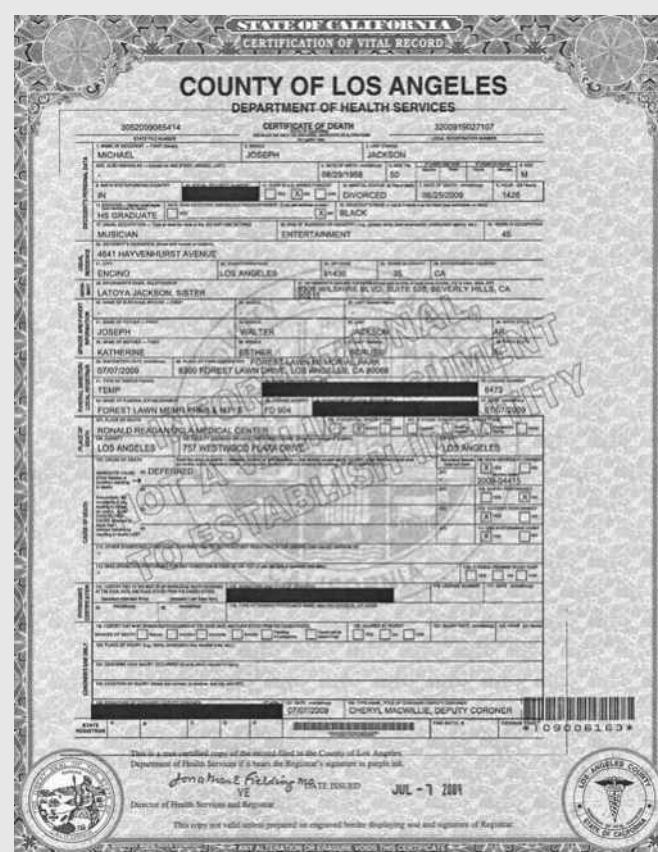
Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Jackson's brain, or at least part of it, was still being held by investigators and would be returned to the family for interment once neuropathology tests were completed.

"As soon as we are done with the brain, we will return it," Winter said. "There is a whole series of tests that will be done."

It is not uncommon for the coroner to hold on to a brain or samples from it. Winter said families sometimes delay burying a loved one until after the brain has been returned, but he had received no word from the Jackson family about their intentions.

"The last I heard, they are not burying the body yet," Winter said.

Police and coroner's officials continue to probe what killed the 50-year-old singer



This image provided by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Services shows an informational copy of Michael Jackson's death certificate. Information redacted by source.

on June 25.

On the certificate, Jackson's occupation is listed as a musician. He is described as a high school graduate and divorced. The information provided for the document was given

by Jackson's sister, La Toya, one of several family members who rushed to the hospital where Jackson was pronounced dead.

The document doesn't state where Jackson will be buried.

About 50 fans lit candles and laid flowers in the main square in Stockholm, as "Billie Jean" and "Earth Song" poured out of a small stereo.

Hannah Ralme, 14, from Stockholm, said she had been heartbroken by Jackson's death. "It's like a piece of me died," she said. "The music, the way he danced, the way he expressed it showed me how to live my life—to be childlike and think about other people."

At a Pan-African culture festival in Algiers, Algeria, hundreds

of singers and dancers from across the continent performed The Jackson 5's "Blame it on the Boogie" as a tribute.

Several hundred Jackson fans gathered at a Hong Kong mall late Tuesday to remember their idol and watch the memorial on a big screen, surrounded by shuttered store fronts. Holding white candles, Hong Kong singer William Chan and Taiwanese pop star Judy Chou led the audience in observing a 30-second silence. Many fans clutched red roses and wore

black; some donned Jackson's trademark fedora hats.

In Japan, home to some of Jackson's most passionate fans, about 100 people gathered at a Tower Records store in downtown Tokyo to watch his videos on a big screen hours before the Los Angeles memorial. The store, which Jackson visited twice, displayed his hand print in a cement block and large posters celebrating his performances. Several shelves dedicated to the pop star were stacked with his CDs and DVDs.

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**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

**John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah**

Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

### Synopsis

After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scrat is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



**Public Enemies**

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

**Johnny Depp, Christian Bale**

Crime Drama • Rated R

### Synopsis

Based on author Bryan Burrough's ambitious tome Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-43, director Michael Mann's sprawling historical crime drama follows the efforts of top FBI agent Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale) in capturing notorious bank robber John Dillinger. A folk hero to the American public thanks to his penchant for robbing the banks that many people believed responsible for the Great Depression, charming bandit Dillinger (Johnny Depp).



**My Sister's Keeper**

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

**Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin**

Family Drama • Rated PG-13



**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen**

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

**Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox**

Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



**BFF (Best Friends Forever)**

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:05 7:10

**Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas**

Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG



**The Proposal**

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:10 7:15

**Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds**

Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



**Year One**

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 7:30  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 7:30

**Jack Black, Michael Cera**

Drama Comedy • Rated PG-13



**Taking of Pelham 123**

Fri. and Sat. 4:15 9:45  
 Sun. thru Thurs. 4:15

**Denzel Washington, John Travolta**

Thriller • Rated R

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# Stars brave London rain at 'Harry Potter' premiere

NARDINE SAAD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**LONDON (AP)**—Thousands of Harry Potter fans braved rain and hail Tuesday to cheer the cast of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at its London premiere.

Stars Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and other cast members, along with the boy wizard's creator, J.K. Rowling, walked up a soggy red carpet before the screening in Leicester Square.

The sixth Potter film, "Half-Blood Prince" sees Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school battling evil Lord Voldemort—and their raging teenage hormones.

Fans cheered the film's stars despite the weather, some holding placards reading "Harry, I'll be Your Chosen One" and "Britain Loves J.K. Rowling."

"I can't believe the dedication of the fans," said Tom Felton, who plays Harry's rival, Draco Malfoy, in the film.



British actors Daniel Radcliffe, right, Emma Watson, centre and Rupert Grint arrive for the World Premiere of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, at a cinema in Leicester Square, central London, Tuesday, July 7 2009.

Paul Taylor, 45, a nursing-home worker from Sheffield in northern England, came dressed in a tailor-made wizard's cloak and hat.

"It's quite exciting. You get

caught up in all the energy," he said.

"I get quite involved with Harry Potter," he acknowledged. "I travel on steam trains and go to conferences."

Grint, who plays Ron Weasley, attended after recovering from a mild bout of swine flu. He said the illness was not severe and "just like any other flu I've had before."

## Former GOP Sen. George Allen to write sports book

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A publisher plans to release a book about sports and politics by former Republican Sen. George Allen next year.

Regnery Publishing in Washington says the former Virginia governor's new book will be titled "The Triumph of Character: What Washington Can Learn from the World of Sports." It's due out next June.

Regnery says the book will show what politics can learn from the world of sports, a

meritocracy based on athletic achievement and teamwork, and how that can help America surmount its challenges.

Allen was a college quarterback at Virginia and is the namesake son of the late Pro Football Hall of Fame coach of the Los Angeles Rams and the Washington Redskins.

In 1993, cowboy-booted, tobacco chewing Allen's election as governor over a heavily favored Democrat launched eight years of the greatest GOP gains in Virginia history.

## Online teasers precede new Dan Brown novel

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The promotion for Dan Brown's new thriller will itself be a bit of a puzzle.

Publisher Doubleday announced Tuesday that Brown's "The Lost Symbol"—his first novel since "The Da Vinci Code"—will be preceded by a summer-long procession of "codes, cryptic trivia, puzzles, secret history, maps, aphorisms" and other daily teasers on Facebook and Twitter.

The book, which comes out

in the fall, will be set in Washington, D.C., and will feature "Da Vinci Code" protagonist Robert Langdon, again caught up in secret societies and hidden codes.

"The Da Vinci Code," released in 2003, has more than 80 million copies in print worldwide.

"The Lost Symbol" has an announced first printing of 5 million.

## Tom Hanks voted back onto Academy Awards board

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Tom Hanks is rejoining the board that oversees the Academy Awards.

After a one-year hiatus, Hanks was elected Tuesday to a new three-year term on the board of governors representing the actors branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Hanks was among nine in-



In this April 27, 2009 file photo, Tom Hanks attends The Film Society of Lincoln Center gala tribute to honoring him at Alice Tully Hall in New York.

cumbents and four new members elected to the board.

But a rare runoff vote is needed after two directors tied for a seat on the board.

Filmmaker Edward Zwick, who directed "Blood Diamond" and "Glory," and frequent Oscar ceremony producer and director Gil Cates tied for a seat representing the directors branch.

Runoff ballots are being mailed this week and are due back July 29.

Academy Executive Director Bruce Davis says he believes it's the first time a runoff election is needed for the board.

## Bill Clinton on Haiti trip praises MJ

**GONAIVES, Haiti (AP)**—Bill Clinton paused during an aid mission to Haiti on Tuesday to honor Michael Jackson for helping the Democratic Party raise cash at a crucial time.

The former U.S. president, now a special U.N. envoy to Haiti, recalled Jackson's performance at a 2002 fundraiser at New York's Apollo theater.

"He basically helped save

my party from terrible financial distress, so he was very kind to me personally," Clinton said during a stop on his tour of a still-struggling northern Haiti, where floods killed several hundred people last year.

Clinton, his face bright red under a scorching summertime Caribbean sun, spoke fondly of Jackson, recalling that the

singer performed at his first inauguration in 1993. He also said Jackson had struggled with the burden of early fame.

"He was an immensely gifted man and I think he basically meant well," Clinton told The Associated Press. "I know about all the trouble he had in his life and I hope he will be remembered for his contribution as an artist. I hope his children turn out well. That would be the greatest tribute you could have."

## Couple's hearts were fonder when distance was greater

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend, "Kent," and I have been together almost three years. It started out as a long-distance relationship, but my children and I have recently moved to his town.

When we were long-distance, we'd talk several times a day and say how much we loved each other. Now we don't talk that often except when we fight over stupid things, and the "I love you's" are almost nonexistent. I say it to Kent all the time. During a couple of our fights he actually told me he doesn't love me, and his actions sometimes show me he means it. When I try to discuss it, he says he was just mad and that he really does love me.

Abby, what bothers me is when we have "alone time"—the kids are asleep or away—Kent would rather watch sports, play on the computer, go out to the movies with his best friend or sleep. When it comes to romance—it doesn't happen more than twice a month or unless he's drunk.

When we first got together, Kent wanted to do everything with me. Now I have to fight for us to spend any time at all together. What can I do?



*Dear Abby*

NEGLECTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR NEGLECTED:** It's time to take a giant step back and reassess this romance, or what's left of it. If Kent asked you to pick up your children and move to his town, then it appears he has either had a change of heart or he's a heel. If he didn't, then your going there was a miscalculation on your part.

It is crucial that you understand how important it is that a person's words and actions match. Kent may tell you he loves you occasionally and under pressure, but his ACTIONS prove otherwise. What you have described is a romance that's going nowhere positive, and if you still have the option, you should pack your bags and go back where you came from.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married three years. My wife comes from a large family, most of whom are here on the East Coast. She is close to all her sisters. One of them, "Kate," is gay and moved out west to be with her girlfriend, "Leslie."

Kate and Leslie break up every year. Then Kate flies back to visit the family. Everyone tells her not to reconcile with Leslie and to start a life without her. After a few weeks, Kate goes back, gets back together with Leslie, and the cycle starts all over again.

It's always the same story: Leslie initiates the breakup. Kate gets lonely and calls us for comfort at all hours of the night because she doesn't work a "normal" job, and it's still early for her. My wife and I both work and we have to get up very early.

I have told my wife that Kate needs to break this repeating cycle. I want to speak up but don't think it's my place as a non-blood relative. Is there anything anyone can do to get through to her that what she's doing is not only hurting her, but other family members?

SLEEP-DEPRIVED IN SPRINGFIELD, VA.

**DEAR SLEEP-DEPRIVED:** Sorry, but Kate needs to figure that out for herself. In the meantime, you and your wife need to agree on what time to turn off the ringer on your phone. Sleep is important, and your health could depend on it.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

## Opera singer performs in wheelchair in London

**LONDON (AP)**—It was not such a lucky break. Opera singer Joyce DiDonato was appearing on a London stage in a wheelchair after breaking her leg during an earlier performance.

Royal Opera House spokesman Christopher Millard says DiDonato was singing Tuesday night in "The Barber of Seville" from a spot visible to the audience but that another actor is acting out her role on the stage.

The singer slipped during the opening night of Rossini's opera on Saturday at London's Royal Opera House. She finished her performance as the heroine, Rosina, leaning on a crutch and was later taken to the hospital where she was told she had broken her right leg.

Millard says she plans to continue performing and to act the role on stage again once her leg heals.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



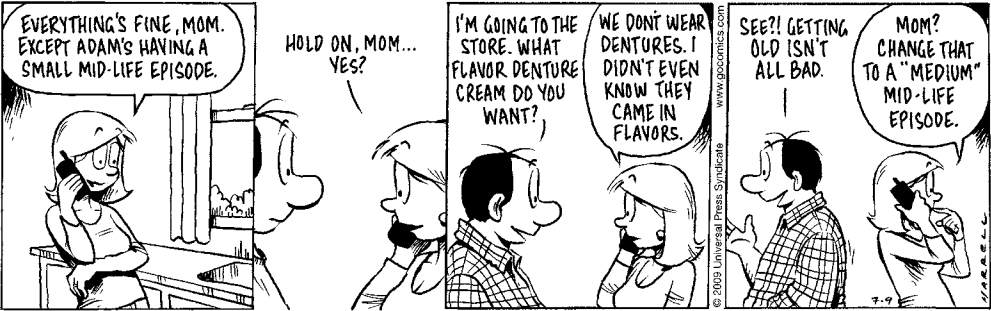
Garfield®

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The Duplex

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Crazy

4 Cabin components

8 Pushpin

12 Inventor Whitney

13 Last write-up

14 Turkish bigwig

15 Active person

17 MRI fore-runner

18 "A mouse!"

19 Cow catchers

21 Insignia

24 Fond du —, Wisc.

25 Court

26 "Uh-huh"

28 Birth-related

32 "Desire Under the —"

34 Peregrinate

36 Infant

37 Change your offer

39 Intimidate

41 Barbie's companion

42 Period

44 Highway stopovers

46 Patella

50 Lumbox

51 Tittle

52 1950s dance

56 Tart

57 Piece of work

58 By way of

59 Read quickly

60 Simple

61 Ostrich's cousin

DOWN

1 Blanc or Brooks

2 "The Greatest"

3 Attack forcefully from above

4 Mellow

5 Sapporo sash

6 Y chromo-some

7 Filch

8 Urban transport

9 "Slumdog Millionaire"

10 Converse site

11 Kyser and Thompson

16 Moray, for one

20 Skedad-dled

21 Ornamental pitcher

22 Double agent

23 Face

27 Atl. counter-part

29 Relax a bit

30 First victim

31 Photog's choice

33 Type of baseball pitch

35 Comic DeLuise

38 "What's up, —?"

40 "Give a hoot, don't pollute"

43 California-Nevada lake

45 Trump casino-hotel

46 Smooch

47 Cranny

48 Needle holder

49 One of the Three Bears

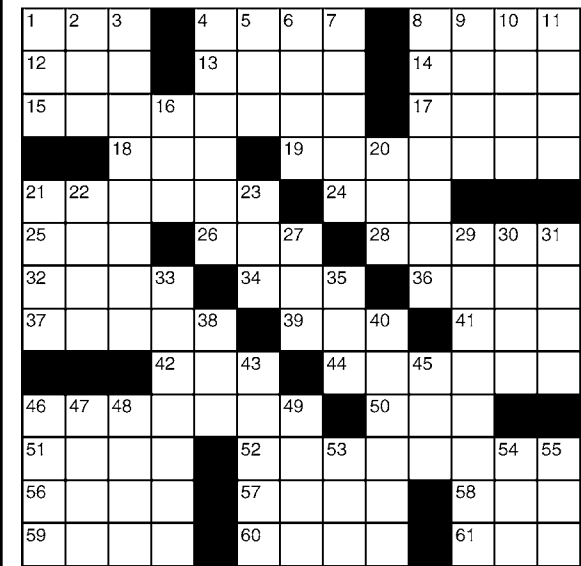
53 Greek consonants

54 Energy

55 Water (Fr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-9



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Savage, 33; Courtney Love, 45; Kelly McGillis, 52; Tom Hanks, 53

Happy Birthday: This is not the year to sit on the sidelines, waiting and watching to see how things unfold. If you hesitate, you will lose out. If you follow your feelings, you will ride the crest to victory. Take a passionate stab at your dreams, hopes and wishes and you will feel proud of your accomplishments. Your numbers are 9, 11, 17, 21, 30, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your involvement helping others may disturb someone you are close to. Look beyond the demands being put on you and do what's in your heart. Your unusual way of looking at a situation someone else faces will be what helps in the end. \*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will face opposition and emotional chaos if you aren't clear about how you feel and what you want. An added expense will leave you in an awkward position if someone who owes you cannot pay you back. \*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have way more going for you than you realize. Your hard work will pay off and even your worst critic will have to back down and honor what you have been able to accomplish. The sky is the limit if you focus on achieving your goals. \*\*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be tempted by what others have or are buying into but your restraint will be to your advantage in the end. Now is not the time to take a risk or to pay for someone else's shortsightedness. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have plenty to contend with but, if you delegate enough of the tedious work to reliable people, it will make you look good. Your patience may be tested and your decisions questioned. Don't deviate from your game plan. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get caught in someone else's trap when it's apparent that you aren't in agreement on all issues. Raise the questions necessary to avoid a mishap. Now is not the time to let your heart rule your head. \*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The most interesting answers and insight will come from those you least expect. A problem with someone you work with will be best handled outside the workplace. Don't make a move that will reflect poorly on your ability to do a good job or advance to a leadership position. \*\*\*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't question someone who can influence your personal well-being. Your ability to listen and go about your business without conflict will save you from an irreversible dilemma. The changes you make personally should be kept a secret. \*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to sign up for anything that promises you a change of scenery, challenge or adventure. Don't let anyone force changes on you. Love may be costly; protect your assets. \*\*\*\*\*

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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money to be made but, in order to do so, you'll have to put a different spin on the services you offer. A partnership will be beneficial and will allow you more time to take care of the necessary social and networking aspects. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give in to someone putting undue pressure on you to make a choice. Follow your own dreams, think your own thoughts and create your own philosophy. If someone truly cares, he or she will encourage you, not stand in your way. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your ability to converse and elaborate in detail what you see happening will encourage others to take note. A social event will result in meeting an essential component to what you are trying to accomplish. \*\*\*

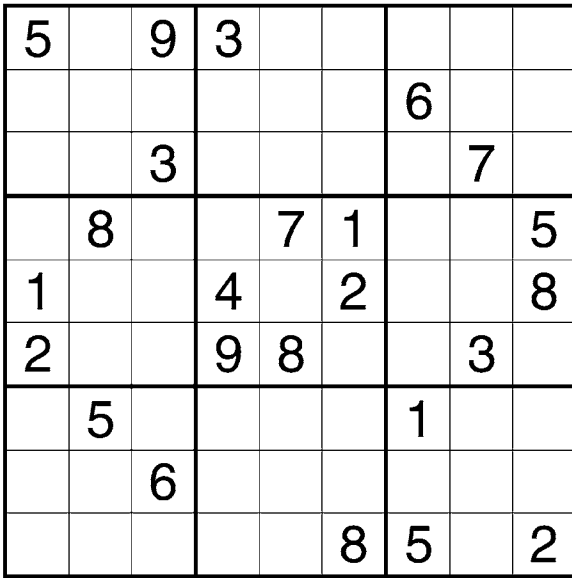
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

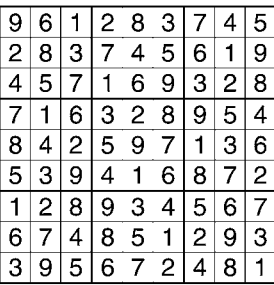


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POTASH MINING Solution: 4 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Salsa

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.  
**VAN WINKLE**  
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# Armstrong within split second of lead at Tour



**MONTPELLIER, France** (AP)—Calling his team “simply awesome,” Lance Armstrong

was nearly decked out in yellow again.

The seven-time champion surged from third place to second at the Tour de France on Tuesday after his Astana squad won a team time trial in a dramatic finish.

Armstrong erased all but a sliver of his 40-second deficit to leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland in the fourth stage. The only thing separating him from the yellow jersey now is a fraction of a second.

“Boo-YA!!!” Armstrong wrote on Twitter. “Well, what can I say? The team was simply awesome today. Consistent, fluid, mistake-free. We love this event ... and are stoked to win.”

The performance was reminiscent of Armstrong’s dominance in the team time trial for the last three years of his string of victories from 1999 to 2005. This is his comeback year at the Tour after 3 1/2 years of retirement.

The 37-year-old Texan plotted strategy with star teammate Alberto Contador before the stage to weed out potential rivals.

Astana was timed in 46 minutes, 29 seconds for the 24.2-mile ride in and around Montpellier. That was 18 seconds better than -up Garmin, with Saxo Bank third, 40 seconds back.

Armstrong entered the day 40 seconds behind Cancellara of Saxo Bank, meaning ownership of the yellow jersey came down to split seconds.

At the last intermediate time check (19 miles), Astana was 41 seconds faster than Saxo, putting Armstrong in the lead at that point and setting up the tense finale.

Armstrong and Cancellara share an overall time of 10 hours, 38 minutes, 7 seconds, although the Swiss rider was deemed a fraction ahead. Organizers examined Saturday’s opening time trial in Monaco that was won by Cancellara. Those results were calculated to the thousandth of a second.

“That’s Swiss timing,” Cancellara said, laughing. “Time is on my side.”

After first expressing “a bit of disappointment” on French TV about not capturing the yellow shirt he has



Alberto Contador of Spain, left, throws his flowers to the crowd as other riders of the Astana team react on the podium after winning the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, a team time-trial over 39 kilometers (24.2 miles) with start and finish in Montpellier, southern France, Tuesday July 7, 2009. Rear, holding the trophy is American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

worn many times, Armstrong put his ride in perspective.

“That’s the way it is. We did our best,” he said. “At one point, we thought we had it, but if I look back on our performance ... we were as sound as we could be.”

“I have no regrets. I don’t look at that and lose sleep or get disappointed,” he said at a news conference. “This is a long race, maybe there’s one (yellow jersey) in my future.”

The potential rivalry between Armstrong and Contador, the Spaniard who won the 2007 Tour, has become a major subplot to the race.

They shelved any such rivalry Tuesday. Armstrong said he appealed to Contador before the race to work together to distance other contenders.

“My point was to Alberto, ‘Look, let’s ride perfect, and make this race almost impossible to win for others,’” he said. “And I think we can say that we accomplished that.”

Astana dealt a blow to several title hopefuls. Defending champion Carlos Sastre of Spain is 2:44 back; two-time

runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia is 2:59 behind; and Giro d’Italian champ Denis Menchov of Russia is 3:52 back.

“I think today, the Tour de France is finished for some riders—and we won’t go into names—but that’s the way that the TTT works now,” Armstrong said, referring to the team time trial. “With no disrespect, it’s difficult to make up that time.”

After Cancellara, the next four riders are from Astana: Armstrong, with the same time; Contador, 19 seconds back in third; 2004 runner-up Andreas Kloeber of Germany was fourth, 23 seconds back; and Levi Leipheimer of the United States was fifth, 31 seconds behind.

The teams set off one by one at seven-minute intervals in a race against the clock. The stage through sun-baked roads of Montpellier, near the Mediterranean, is among the flattest this year.

Cyclists try to ride single file to reduce wind drag and take turns in the lead to maximize efficiency and conserve energy. The first five riders record the same times, while laggards get individual times. All teams had nine rid-

ers except Quick Step; one member of the Belgian squad quit the race after a crash in Stage 2.

Armstrong said the many tight turns made for “tricky” riding. Three crashes marred the stage start—including one involving Menchov.

The question now is whether Armstrong’s legs can keep up when the three-week race on Friday heads toward three days in the Pyrenees after two mostly flat stages.

That’s when the Armstrong-Contador rivalry could emerge. They are both far better climbers than Cancellara, one of the world’s best time trial riders.

Next up is Stage 5, a 122-mile ride along the Mediterranean from Le Cap d’Agde to Perpignan.

Armstrong said he’s realistic about his chance of victory when riders reach the finale on the Champs-Élysées in Paris on July 26.

“It’s not going to be easy—I’m not going to get last—but it won’t be like 2004, 2005, 2001,” he said. “It’s going to be a hell of a lot harder than I expected. That’s as honest as I can say it.”

## Lack of motive slows ruling on McNair girlfriend



**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Tennessee’s state medical examiner said Tuesday that investigators have been hesitant to conclude that Steve

McNair’s girlfriend killed the NFL star and herself because she didn’t appear to have a motive, but that murder-suicide is the most likely scenario.

After the couple was discovered shot to death on Saturday, police were quick to label McNair’s death a homicide. He had been shot twice in the head and twice in the chest, while 20-year-old Sahel Kazemi was dead from a single gunshot to the head. Under her body was a gun she had purchased less than two days before the killings.

Investigators were waiting on ballistics tests on the weapon before issuing a ruling on Kazemi’s death, which medical examiner Bruce Levy said could come in the next few days. Kazemi’s

gun purchase, which was revealed on Monday, is a strong indication that she was responsible, he said.

“If we had known on Sunday about the gun I think we would have been very comfortable in ruling murder-suicide,” he said. “I’ll be very surprised now if they rule it isn’t.”

Levy said an apparent lack of motive by Kazemi has made investigators careful about exploring every possibility, including the unlikely scenario that a third party could have staged the scene. Their relationship lacked typical indicators of trouble—such as concerned family members or police reports and protection orders.

“The thing we always hear is, ‘We should have seen this coming,’” he said.

But Kazemi’s family has said she was very happy.

“She just had it made, you know, (with) this guy taking care of everything,” Kazemi’s nephew Farzin Abdi

said on Monday.

Levy said the 36-year-old McNair was shot in each temple and twice in the chest. Three of the shots were taken from a distance, but one of the shots to the temple came from just inches away.

The gun that killed Kazemi was in contact with her head when it discharged, he said.

Police spokesman Don Aaron said Monday McNair wasn’t with Kazemi when she bought the semiautomatic pistol that was found at the scene. Police have declined to release the caliber of the gun or the name of the person who sold it to her.

Aaron said the case may not be as neatly resolved as people would like.

“It may be we’ll never know exactly why this happened,” he said.

Much of what’s known publicly about the affair comes from what Kazemi told her family: She was preparing to move in with McNair and be-

lieved he was going to divorce his wife, though no court records of divorce proceedings have surfaced.

Then early Thursday, Kazemi was arrested for DUI while driving a Cadillac Escalade that was registered in both of their names. McNair was with her but wasn’t charged, and police allowed him to leave the scene. He later bailed her out.

That night, Kazemi went alone to buy the handgun.

On Friday night and early Saturday morning, McNair was seen with friends in two Nashville bars. A witness said McNair arrived at a condominium he leased sometime between 1:30 and 2:00 a.m. Kazemi’s car was already there.

The couple had been dead for hours when McNair’s friend Wayne Neeley, who leased the condo with him, found the bodies at around 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

### NBA BRIEFS

#### AP source: Hawks reach deal with Bibby

**ATLANTA** (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks are keeping the point guard who has led the team to two straight playoff appearances. The Hawks and Mike Bibby have reached an agreement on a three-year contract, a person with knowledge of the negotiations said Tuesday. The person requested anonymity because the deal has not been announced. Hawks general manager Rick Sund said he could not comment on the deal. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* first reported the agreement. The Hawks acquired Bibby in a trade deadline deal in 2008, and he led the team to its first playoff appearance since 1999. He averaged 14.9 points and 5.0 assists per game last season as the Hawks won 47 games and advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

#### AP source: Pistons and John Kuester nearing a deal

**DETROIT** (AP)—The Detroit Pistons are close to ending their search for a new boss on the bench. The Pistons and John Kuester were nearing an agreement Tuesday night to make him their coach, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal was not done, said the contract could be completed as soon as Wednesday. Kuester spent the past two seasons as a Cleveland Cavaliers assistant and was on Larry Brown’s championship-winning staff in 2004 with the Pistons. He was also an NBA assistant in Orlando, Philadelphia—under Brown—New Jersey and Boston. The North Carolina graduate was a head coach at George Washington from 1985-90. “Nice man, don’t know much about him as a coach,” TNT analyst Doug Collins wrote in a text message to the AP. “Really quality guy/gentleman.” The Pistons spoke with Avery Johnson about replacing Michael Curry, but talks with the former Dallas Mavericks coach ended Tuesday.

#### NBA salary cap drops to \$57.7 million for '09-10

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The NBA salary cap has been set for next season at \$57.7 million, a decline from 2008-09, allowing teams to begin signing players. The figure the league announced Tuesday night was about \$1 million less than last season’s cap of \$58.68 million, even though league-wide revenue rose 2.5 percent. The number is expected to drop further next season when the full effect of the economic difficulties hit. The new salary cap went into effect at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, ending the NBA’s moratorium period and allowing free agents to sign deals with teams. The luxury tax level also dropped to \$69.92 million. Any team whose salary exceeds that will have to pay \$1 for every \$1 it goes over.

# Rangers win to move level with Angels



**ANAHEIM, California (AP)**—The Texas Rangers moved

back into a tie with Los Angeles for leadership of the American League West division with an 8-5 win over the Angels on Tuesday.

Andruw Jones hit a three-run homer to key Texas' decisive six-run fifth inning.

The homer, a score on a wild pitch, and a two-run single all came with two outs in the fifth as the Rangers overhauled Los Angeles' 3-0 lead.

Los Angeles pitcher John Lackey gave up six runs in 4 2-3 innings.

## Yankees 10, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, pitcher C.C. Sabathia allowed just one run in seven innings, steering New York past Minnesota.

The bottom third of the Yankees batting order combined for seven hits and six RBIs.

Twins pitcher Scott Baker was 2-0 with a 1.50 ERA in his only two previous starts against the Yankees, but gave up five runs in three innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Sabathia held Minnesota All-Stars Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau hitless in six combined at-bats.

## Rays 3, Blue Jays 1, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Pat Burrell hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning to give Tampa Bay victory over Toronto.

The AL champions stopped a four-game losing streak that included three losses to rookie pitchers. They still struggled at the plate, managing just two hits in six innings against the Blue Jays debutant pitcher Marc Rzepczynski.

Burrell, mired in a 4-for-34 slump, hit only his fourth homer of the season.

## Red Sox 5, Athletics 2

In Boston, Josh Beckett became Boston's second pitcher to reach 10 wins this season, helping the Red Sox overcome Oakland.

Beckett matched the win total of Tim Lincecum and remained unbeaten at home this season with five wins in eight starts.

Boston's Jason Bay, the top vote-getter among AL outfielders for next Tuesday's All-Star game, hit a solo shot in the second inning for his 20th homer of the season but first in 49 at-bats.

## Tigers 8, Royals 5

In Detroit, pitcher Justin Verlander struck out 11 to run his AL-best strikeout total



Texas Rangers' Andruw Jones, center, is congratulated by teammates Josh Hamilton, left, and Hank Blalock (9) after he hit a three-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

to 141, as Detroit downed Kansas City.

That strikeout total is the most by a Detroit pitcher before the All-Star break in 37 years. He gave up seven hits over six innings.

Marcus Thames hit a three-run homer for the AL Central-leading Tigers.

## Orioles 12, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Luke Scott had three hits and a career-high seven RBIs to power Baltimore over Seattle.

Scott had a two-run single in the first, a two-run triple in a four-run sixth and a three-run homer in a six-run seventh. His previous high for RBIs was five.

## White Sox 10, Indians 6

In Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a career-high three home runs, including a go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning, as Chicago beat Cleveland.

Konerko, who drove in a career-high seven runs, became the 12th player in White Sox history to hit three homers in a game and the first for six years.

## Cardinals 5, Brewers 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright came within two outs of his first career shut-

out and Ryan Ludwick and Colby Rasmus homered for St. Louis in a victory over Milwaukee.

The 27-year-old righthander worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the second and didn't allow a hit after the fourth inning until Casey McGehee's infield hit leading off the ninth.

Wainwright (9-5) allowed seven hits, struck out nine and walked two before being lifted for Ryan Franklin, who induced Jason Kendall to hit into a double play on his second pitch.

It was the fourth time this season Milwaukee has been shut out and the third time in the last nine games.

Yovani Gallardo (8-6) allowed four runs and six hits, walked five and struck out five in five innings.

## Reds 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Ramon Hernandez hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Brad Lidge in the ninth inning for Cincinnati.

Brandon Phillips hit two homers and drove in three runs to help the Reds rebound from the worst loss in franchise history, 22-1 to the Phillies on Monday.

Ryan Howard and Jayson Werth hit consecutive homers in the second for

the NL East-leading Phillies, who had won four straight.

David Weathers (1-1) tossed a scoreless eighth and All-Star closer Francisco Cordero finished for his 21st save in 22 chances.

Joey Votto doubled leading off the ninth against Lidge (0-4). After Phillips sacrificed, pinch-hitter Laynce Nix was intentionally walked and Hernandez followed with a soft liner to center to drive in Votto.

## Giants 3, Marlins 0

In San Francisco, Barry Zito pitched into the ninth and Juan Uribe hit a two-run homer as San Francisco Giants won their fourth straight at home.

Zito was close to his 11th career complete game and second this season, when he was pulled for Sergio Romo after Wes Helms' one-out single.

Zito (5-8), who entered his 17th start with the lowest run support in the majors at 2.80, outpitched All-Star Josh Johnson (7-2). He allowed four hits, struck out six and walked one in only his second outing of the year reaching eight innings.

Romo recorded the final two outs in the Giants' majors-best 12th shutout and fifth in the last 10 games for his first career save. San Francisco won for the seventh time in 10 games.

## Diamondbacks 4, Padres 3

In Phoenix, Doug Davis got his first victory in a month as Arizona matched its season-best four-game winning streak.

Davis, who had allowed just two earned runs in his previous three starts but left each with a no-decision, scattered nine hits, allowing two runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Kevin Kouzmanoff was 3 for 4 with two doubles for the Padres, who have lost six of seven.

Kevin Correia (5-7) allowed four runs, three earned, and six hits in six innings.

## Rockies 5, Nationals 4

In Denver, Clint Barmes capped Colorado's eighth-inning rally with a sacrifice fly.

It was the Rockies' fifth straight victory against the Nationals, who committed three errors in the game.

The Rockies scored the winning run without the benefit of a hit. Julian Tavarez (3-7) issued consecutive one-out walks. Joe Beimel relieved and induced a comebacker from pinch-hitter Ryan Spilborghs but he threw wildly to

second going for the force.

Barmes followed with the tie-breaking sacrifice fly.

Washington had gone ahead 4-1 in the third on a three-run homer by Ryan Zimmerman, the Nationals' only All-Star representative.

## Dodgers 8, Mets 0

In New York, Manny Ramirez drove in three runs with two singles for Los Angeles, then was ejected following his second called strikeout.

Clayton Kershaw (6-5) combined with three relievers on a four-hitter, pinch-hitter Blake DeWitt hit a seventh-inning homer and Los Angeles twice scored with bases-loaded walks.

New York has lost nine of 11 and gone scoreless in 22 consecutive innings, getting just 10 hits—all singles. Mets pitchers walked seven against the Dodgers, and New York batters twice grounded into double plays.

While losing four straight, which includes a weekend sweep in Philadelphia, the Mets have hit .183, been outscored 21-3 and struck out 28 times.

Ramirez, in his fourth game back following a 50-game drug suspension, argued with plate umpire John Hirschbeck after he was called out in the first. He had a two-out, two-run single in the second and added an RBI single in the fourth. He was called out in the fifth, dropped his bat and threw his helmet and protective gear and was tossed while walking to the outfield.

Mike Pelfrey (6-4) fell to 2-4 in his last 11 starts, allowing five runs—four earned—eight hits and three walks in three-plus innings.

## Braves 2, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Javier Vazquez allowed a run and five hits in seven strong innings and Brian McCann had two two-out RBIs for Atlanta.

McCann had run-scoring singles in the first and third. Chicago tied it in the second when Koyie Hill hit a two-out RBI single, the Cubs' third hit of the inning.

## Pirates 6, Astros 3

At Houston, Jack Wilson hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs to help Pittsburgh end a three-game losing streak.

Wilson singled in a run in a four-run seventh and Paul Maholm (6-4) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for the Pirates. Matt Capps pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save.

# Krzyzewski appears on verge of return as US coach



Mike Krzyzewski appears set to go for more gold. USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said Tuesday that "all leads point to Coach K coming back," following a report by the *Boston Globe* that Krzyzewski has agreed to return as U.S. Olympic basketball coach.

The *Globe* report cited two sources close to the situation.

Krzyzewski led the Americans to the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, their first major championship in eight years. He also guided them to a bronze in the world championships two years earlier.

Colangelo said he was aware of the speculation regarding Krzyzewski, but

wouldn't confirm a decision had been reached. However, he hoped the coach he picked in 2005 to guide the program would return.

"With the success that we had, I would do everything in my power to keep everything intact," Colangelo told The Associated Press.

"I'm a strong believer in not upsetting the apple cart."

The Americans plan to announce their coach at a press conference on July 21 or 22 in Las Vegas, before they open a minicamp for young players who are prospects to play in the 2010 world championships in Turkey and the 2012 Olympics in London.

Colangelo previously planned to name the next coach in the fall, but he and Krzyzewski agreed to move up the

decision after a dinner meeting in June. Both he and Krzyzewski wanted to make sure the coach was comfortable with taking more summers away from his family and Duke.

Krzyzewski led the Americans to a 36-1 record from 2006-08, and a return would give him a chance to fill one of the only holes on his Hall of Fame resume. He is 0-for-2 in the world championships, also finishing third in 1990 with a team of college players.

His return could inspire other members of the Olympic team to return to the program. Colangelo talked to half the squad in February, including LeBron James and Kobe Bryant, and believed they would be interested in suiting up again for the Americans.



In this April 15, 2008, file photo, U.S. Olympic men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski speaks during the U.S. Olympic Team Media Summit in Chicago.

# Casino rules Tinian Dynasty caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Tinian's up-and-coming cager Ringo Reyes scored 26 points, including nine

in the fourth quarter to lift Casino to a 103-100 finals win over F&B in the 8th TDHC Inter-Department Basketball Tournament.

The 6'3" center hit timely baskets that foiled F&B's repeated comeback bids, as he and Dave Ramirez gave Casino the championship. Ramirez chipped in 21 markers, making six in the pay-off period to keep Casino in the lead and secure the title for the Bong Ramos-coached squad.

Casino had three other players drilling double figures with Treat Kaipat tallying 13 and Ernie Advincula and R.J. Reyes firing 12 markers each.

Ringo Reyes, who was once considered for the CNMI Men's Nationals, but could not make the team's training due to scheduling problems, waxed hot early for Casino. He made seven points in the first period and drew contributions from five other teammates.

However, F&B hit more targets in the first period with J.P. Garcia's guns blazing, firing 10 markers. Russell Manalo



Members of Casino team and their supporters celebrate their title win over F&B in the 8th TDHC Inter-Department Basketball Tournament.

chipped in seven, as F&B took a three-point lead, 28-25, after 10 minutes of play.

In the second period, Casino outscored F&B, 29-24, as the

eventual champion's defense held Garcia to a field goal and three free throws. Not even a 10-point production from Charlie Fernandez could prevent Casino from

taking the lead at halftime.

While only two F&B players

logged more than two field goals in the second quarter, Ringo Reyes continued to get enough

help from his supporting crew, allowing Casino to end the first half with a 54-52 lead.

Casino protected the lead in the third period, 76-73, as Ringo and

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CNMI

From Page 28

eration representative Mike Villagomez.

Wong and Graf will be on their second world championships stint, while Shin Kimura and Staal are first timers.

## MISSES

From Page 28

11-1, in the other game and improved to a 3-0 slate, making the CNMI's chances for a finals berth a long shot. There's a chance that the CNMI, Indonesia, and Guam may end up

## THE CRANK

From Page 28

but sometimes returns to Saipan to officiate games in Trench Tech fights.

Camacho added a bronze medal to his collection after placing third in the blue belt cruiserweight (180 to 189 lbs).

## WANTED

From Page 28

will consist of a maximum of 10 players—one coach, one assistant coach who also doubles as the team manager, one referee, and if the federation fields a men's and women's team also a head of delegation (total 27 persons per country). Aside from the actual

Wong is entered in the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke, 200m medley relay, and 50m freestyle. Graf is competing in the 50m butterfly and 100m, 800m, and 50m freestyle. Shin's event are the 50m, 100m, and 400m freestyle, while Kai is joining the 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke,

50m and 100m freestyle, and 50m backstroke.

Hiro Kimura said the four CNMI swimmers aim to set personal best times in all their events and hopefully get a few CNMI marks.

The CNMI swimmers are training seven times a week at the Kan Pacific Swimming

in a three-way tie with identical 3-1 slates should the Commonwealth win over Indonesia today. However, if runs scored or head-to-head results will be used to break the tie, Guam will still finish on top, as it has earned 14 runs so far against the CNMI's nine.

The win assured Guam a fi-

nals berth and the right to face either Chinese-Taipei or Korea in the championship match for the World Series slot.

The CNMI bets made one final push to pull off a win against Guam at the bottom of the last inning with their bases loaded. Jonathan Cabrera hit a line drive, but Guam leftfielder

"I had five tough fights in this division," said Camacho, who dedicated his medals to Master Lloyd, Team Lloyd Irvin, and the Trench Tech family.

The two-day tournament was held on June 27 and 28 and featured around 1,500 grapplers from more than 50 fight clubs.

The biggest catch of the tournament are the pro bouts in three

divisions. Marcos Aurelio Galvao Pereira of Vitor Shaolin won the lightweight division over Brian McLaughlin of Hudson Valley BJJ. In the middleweight division finals, Pablo Popovitch of BJJ Center downed Tom Manelski of Bill Scott BJJ, while Roberto "Cyborg" Abreu of Fight Sports took the heavyweight gold medal after beating Vinicious "Pezao"

games, the tournament will also include clinics for players, coaches, and referees.

At the end of the competition, an all-star team of 10 players, one coach, one referee, and one manager will be selected from the participating Pacific Island nations in the men's and women's divisions to compete at an event in Australia in the year following the tournament.

Smith said FIBA Oceania will provide a cash subsidy of \$30,000 AUD to assist the host with costs of staging the event. The association will also use its best effort to gain a further \$30,000 of Olympic Solidarity funding for the hosts.

FIBA Oceania staff will also support the running of the event in the coaching, refereeing, scorebench and stats, and event administration area.

Pool to prepare for the tournament in Italy.

Once in Italy, Hiro Kimura said the CNMI swimmers will not only experience a top-level competition, but also the country's rich tradition.

"We will go there as sports competitors not as tourists. Our purpose is to compete,

Jonathan Sablan caught the ball for the final out.

Earlier in the game, the CNMI committed three errors, allowing Guam to seize control of the match.

This will be the third straight year that the CNMI will miss a World Series trip in the Majors division after the then Thelma

Magalhaes of TUF Season 8.

Meanwhile, Camacho expressed his disappointment about missing this month's Trench Tech fights.

"I'm upset I'm missing it. There are many good fights lined up and a lot of up and comers. Trench Warz always puts on good shows," Camacho said.

Trench Tech's offering later this

"The FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament cannot be successfully staged without the support of government, private sponsors and your National Olympic Committee/Umbrella Sports Association," reiterated Smith.

"If your federation thinks it might be interested in bidding to host the 2012 edition of the Youth Tournament please let us know so that we can send

not to have a sightseeing. However, I think education is also important for athletes. They will go to Rome for the first time and it will give them the opportunity to know more of its culture and history. They will experience how life is in Italy even for a short period of time," Hiro Kimura said.

Mizer-managed squad made it to Williamsport in 2006.

With the loss, the CNMI will have only one team to the World Series in the Junior League All-Stars, who incidentally are managed by Mizer with Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera as coach and assistant coach, respectively.

month is dubbed Trench Warz X: Collision and will be held on July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

One of the featured fights in the end of the month event is the duel between Team Lock-down's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao and Saipan's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas. Six other Saipan vs. Guam bouts are lined up for Trench Warz X.

you more information. The FIBA Oceania Board are seeking to name the 2012 host by June 2010 so that the location of the next edition can be announced at the closing ceremony next year in New Caledonia," he added.

For more information on the 2012 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament, contact special events coordinator Judy Smith at judy@fibaoceania.com.

R.J. Reyes combined for 14 of the team's 22 points in that canto, and Ramirez contributed five.

Ringo Reyes completed his long-game brilliance with a nine-point output in the playoff period to preserve the win. He was later named MVP of the tournament.

Reyes also made it to the Mythical Five Team, which is also composed of Ramirez, Garcia, Fernandez, and Michael Toreggosa of third placer Finance/Shipping's.

Advincula won the individual sportsmanship award, while the team sportsmanship plum went to Security/Rooms Department.

Meanwhile, Club TDHC president Noel Sabordo would like to thank TDHC general manager Tom Liu and all department managers for the successful staging of the tournament.

**Casino 103** – Ri. Reyes 26, Ramirez 21, Kaipat 13, Advincula 12, R.J. Reyes 12, Kaipat 7, Awa 4, Que 4, Hermo 2.

**F&B 100** – Garcia 29, Fernandez 26, Manalo 11, Pavino 7, Flores 7, Marquez 6, Dancel 4, Mabansag 3, Hernandez 3, Gammad 2, Gornez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-28, 54-52, 76-73, 103-100.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	50	33	.602	—
New York	49	34	.590	1
Tampa Bay	45	39	.536	5 1/2
Toronto	43	42	.506	8
Baltimore	37	47	.440	13 1/2

##### Central Division

Detroit	45	38	.542	—
Chicago	43	40	.518	2
Minnesota	43	41	.512	2 1/2
Kansas City	36	47	.434	9
Cleveland	33	51	.393	12 1/2

##### West Division

Los Angeles	46	36	.561	—
Texas	46	36	.561	—
Seattle	43	40	.518	3 1/2
Oakland	35	47	.427	11

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

Philadelphia	43	38	.531	—
Florida	43	42	.506	2
Atlanta	40	43	.482	4
New York	39	43	.476	4 1/2
Washington	24	57	.296	19

##### Central Division

St. Louis	46	39	.541	—
Milwaukee	43	40	.518	2
Chicago	41	40	.506	3
Cincinnati	41	41	.500	3 1/2
Houston	40	42	.488	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	38	46	.452	7 1/2

##### West Division

Los Angeles	53	30	.639	—
San Francisco	46	37	.554	7
Colorado	44	39	.530	9
San Diego	35	48	.422	18
Arizona	35	49	.417	18 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 4, Philadelphia 3	L.A. Dodgers 8, N.Y. Mets 0
Atlanta 2, Chicago Cubs 1	Pittsburgh 6, Houston 3
St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 0	Colorado 5, Washington 4
Arizona 4, San Diego 3	San Francisco 3, Florida 0
Detroit 8, Kansas City 5	Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1, 11 innings
Boston 5, Oakland 2	N.Y. Yankees 10, Minnesota 2
Chicago White Sox 10, Cleveland 6	Texas 8, L.A. Angels 5
Baltimore 12, Seattle 4	

By The Associated Press

# 2009 SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



D'Pirates Huwa players pose with their championship trophies in the Obyan division during the awards banquet for the 2009 SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League at PIC's Charley's Cabaret.



The Docomo Hustlers and their supporters pose for a group photo after receiving their championship trophies in the Agingan division.



USSP Fatton Palau finished the league with a 53-38 slate to place second in the Obyan division.



Third placers Bwibwiis Shark Attack of the Obyan division show their trophies.



Bwibwiis' Patrick Taitano claimed the MVP award in the Obyan division.



Runners-up IT&E Voyagers of the Agingan division.



Special awards recipients, from left, Jerry Soriano (8-on-the-break) Robert Sanciangco (run the rack), and Ron Chisato (8-on-the-break/Obyan division).



The Utopia Mixers received the Sportsmanship Award in the Agingan division and also finished third behind the Hustlers and Voyagers.



Senen Pangilinan poses with his family after receiving the MVP trophy in the Agingan division.

## Armstrong within split second of lead at Tour



The seven-time champion surged from third place to second at the Tour de France on Tuesday after his Astana squad won a team time trial in a dramatic finish. **24**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Casino rules Tinian Dynasty caging

Tinian's up-and-coming cager Ringo Reyes scored 26 points, including nine in the fourth quarter to lift Casino to a 103-100 finals win over F&B in the 8th TDHC Inter-Department Basketball Tournament. **26**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# CNMI swimmers to make history in Italy



Staal



Kimura



Wong



Wong

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

A new entry in the CNMI swimming history book will be written later this month when four Commonwealth swimmers compete in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin

Kimura, and Kai Staal of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will represent the CNMI in the annual swim meet that will feature Olympians and the best swimmers in the world. It will take place at Foro Italico and Ostia from July 17 to Aug. 2 and will have around 2,800 athletes from 200 nations.

Besides the 17 individual events that



the CNMI swimmers will be joining in, Wong and company will be competing in relay events, a first for the Commonwealth. The CNMI team is entered in the 4x100m and 4x200m relay and 400x100m medley relay

"This is will be the first time that a CNMI team will be swimming in a relay in the world championships. Our boys will be doing three kinds of re-

lay swims. This is the most important event for our team and we hope they will break the times in the Junior Pan Pacific Tournament in Guam in January this year and the 2006 Micronesian Games," said Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who will be accompanying the four swimmers to Italy.

Joining the CNMI delegation is Northern Marianas Swimming Fed-

See CNMI on Page 26

## CNMI misses second World Series ticket



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI and Guam Major All-Stars pose for a group photo at the lobby of the Santos Hotel in Hong Kong while waiting for their bus ride to Shing Sheng Stadium yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Commonwealth faltered in its bid to gain a second ticket to the World Series this year after the CNMI Major All-Stars lost to Guam, 3-6, yesterday in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at Hong Kong Disneyland Baseball Field.

It was the CNMI's first loss in three games and it was a big one, as it cost them the chance to gain a finals seat and move closer to a World Series stint. The Commonwealth's sluggers will face Indonesia today.

Indonesia won over the Philippines, See MISSES on Page 26

## 'The Crank' wins two medals in US grappling meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho won two medals in the Grapplers Quest 2009 U.S. Nationals/All-Star Pro Challenge held late last month in Morristown, New Jersey.

Camacho made it to the finals of the blue belt absolute division (open weight class) before bowing to Lloyd Irvin teammate D.J. Jackson.

"This was a huge division. All the blue belts from the 150 lbs. to the super heavyweight divisions competed in the absolute division. My teammate D.J. Jackson and I closed the division out. We met in the finals and just had a friendly match in the end," said Camacho, who is now based in New Jersey, See THE CRANK on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, poses with Lloyd Irvin teammate D.J. Jackson after their gold medal bout in the blue belt absolute division of the Grapplers Quest 2009 U.S. Nationals/All-Star Pro Challenge held late last month in Morristown, New Jersey.

## Wanted: 2012 youth tourney host

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



After last month's successful staging of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament on Saipan, the region's basketball governing body is now focusing its attention in finding a host to the 2012 youth tournament.

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith said the 2012 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament will be the region's ninth competition for 19-and-under men and women players.

New Caledonia will host the 2010 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament next year and the French colony will again host basketball teams around the region when it stages the 14th Pacific Games in Noumea.

Smith said the FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament is a 16-team (eight men and eight women) event played every two years with the host country, Australia and New Zealand, and five Pacific Island countries.

Players must be 19 years and under in the year of competition and the tournament runs for one week from Saturday to Sunday and includes one rest day—usually on a Wednesday.

Smith said the host is responsible for providing accommodations, meals, and ground transport for visiting teams.

He added that participating teams See WANTED on Page 26